

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Keep Your Head Up While You Work

November 24 & 25, 2012

AS WE GATHER

This is the Last Sunday of the Church Year---the Sunday of the Fulfillment. Today, the Word of God focuses our attention on the end of days, when the Lord Jesus will come again "in clouds with great power and glory" (*Mark 13:26*). Waiting, watchfully, for God's mercy on that blessed day, the Holy Church on earth keeps the faith, and remains in the love of God patiently showing mercy to all who struggle with doubt and sin (*cf. Jude 20-25*).

WELCOME

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #686 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace! Come,
my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

(Rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD reigns; He is robed in majesty;

People: the LORD is robed; He has put on strength as His belt. *Psalm 93:1*

Pastor: Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house,

People: O LORD, forevermore. *Psalm 93:5*

Pastor: Give attention to Me, My people,

People: and give ear to Me, My nation; *Isaiah 51:4*

Pastor: My salvation will be forever,

People: and My righteousness will never be dismayed. *Isaiah 51:6*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Father of all mercy and grace. . .

People: . . . look not upon our sins, for they are many. We are stained with guilt from our works of darkness and from our failure to walk in the light. We have become slothful instead of wakeful; dull of sight instead of watchful; weighed down by the cares of the world instead of eager for our Lord's return. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the power and presence of the Holy Spirit through your Word to equip us for doing your will. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord Jesus died to purchase your forgiveness and was raised again for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Glory to God, in the Highest"

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing-
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.

To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high-
Continued

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you are coming soon with great power and glory. Grant that we who have been redeemed by your grace would remain steadfast in the same by faith and with purity of life. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 51:4-6 (*Pay attention, listen, look; salvation is near.*)

"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.

EPISTLE Jude 20-25 (*Keep yourselves in the love of God until the end.*)

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

(Rise)

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 (*Be ever watchful for Jesus' return with great power and glory.*)

"But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass

away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #508 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" Stanzas 1-3

The day is surely drawing near When Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth, And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.

The final trumpet then shall sound And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hours, By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.

The books are opened then to all, A record truly telling
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was dwelling,
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, And all be known as they have been
In thoughts and words and actions.

SERMON "Watching, Waiting, and Preparing For the End" Mark 13:24-37

HYMN #508 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" Stanzas 4-7

Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand And at the judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.

My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us. Continued

O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation
O hear and grant our fervent plea: Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS

Pastor: O Almighty God, merciful Father, in this present life of sin and suffering, your holy Church longs for the return of Christ and for the fulfillment of all things in Him.

People: Give us grace to make a good confession, to stand firm in the faith, and to be ever watchful for His coming in power and glory.

Pastor: Bestow strength and steadfastness on the pastors and missionaries of your Church, that in these dark and latter days your little flock, O Lord, may not be abandoned, but nurtured and built up in You

People: so that we may declare the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Pastor: O King of glory, Lord of hosts, in humility your only-begotten Son stood before governors and kings and was accused unjustly for our sake. Defend the cause of the weak and those who have no voice in our society, particularly the unborn, the poor, and the homeless.

People: Give the government of our nation and our leaders the fortitude to strive for fairness and justice in our land.

Pastor: O God, with all creation we look in eager expectation for our final redemption, the revelation of your Son, and the joys of your heavenly kingdom. Until that time, look in mercy on all who live under the cross.

People: Give patience and hope to the hopeless. Give perseverance to those struggling in life. Fill us all with faith to believe the promised return of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: God of compassion, give healing and help to the sick in body, mind, or spirit to Bob, Gretchen, Eleanor, Robin, Gil, Nancy, Sarah, Gerald and Joe. Draw

near to the dying, hold them in the arms of your love and defend them against the final assaults of the evil one. Comfort those who mourn with the hope of the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

People: Give us faith to see in our crosses that you work all things for our good and that nothing in this world can separate us from your love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: Gracious Father, in the Supper of your Son you give us a foretaste of the feast of heaven. May all who approach your Table this day be worthy and well prepared.

People: Give us the food of our Lord's body and blood, that we may be sustained on our journey through this troubled life until the veil of this present age is lifted and we see you face to face.

Pastor: We give you most hearty thanks, O Lord, for all the mercies you have shown your saints on their pilgrimage in this life and who now enjoy the splendor of your glory. We praise you with Larry, Carol, Rick and Jodi. Keep us faithful to the end that one day we may with them come to the fullness of your heavenly kingdom; where you, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign ever one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the + Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #821 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us: Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o’er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise: “I am with you evermore”?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth’s Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav’n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim In the Eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
“Jesus out of ev’ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood.”

HYMN #560 “Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With healing gifts for souls distresses,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.

Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.

Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.

And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

HYMN #515 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff’rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O’er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth’s redemption That sets Your people free!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our heavenly Father, we give you thanks for feeding us with the heavenly food of your Son's body and blood. Keep us in your love while we watch attentively for Jesus' return that our faith may be lived out in works of mercy to those in need; through the same, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #861

“Christ Be My Leader”

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life. Nor
darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender Jr.
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Manley Hurst, Marc Stefanic, Jodi Drew
Acolytes	Ben Reinhardt, MacKenzie Ricard, Kelly Sarff
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller

Join us at our **Wednesday Advent Mid-Week Worship Services**
as we prepare our hearts for **Christmas!**

10:00am & 6:00pm

December 5 Jesus Is Our Hope
December 12 Jesus Is Our Joy
December 19 Jesus Is Our Peace

An Advent Dinner
will be served each
Wednesday at
4:45pm in the
Fellowship Hall. Dec.
5 - Tacos, Spanish
Rice, Applesauce &
Dessert.

