

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

We Look for a New Heaven and a New Earth

November 22 & 23, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The end of one church year comes with questions. Will this be the last year before our Lord returns in His glory? When will He come? What will it be like? The kingly reign of Christ which we know now by faith, we shall know face-to-face when He brings all things to their appointed conclusion and delivers the Kingdom to the Father. That is enough to sustain us. That is enough to guard our hearts in the surpassing peace of His promise. Today, we come as God's people to anticipate right here, in the Sacrament, the future that is already unfolding. This is the feast of victory for our God and the foretaste of the great and eternal feast to come. Until then, we await the new heaven and the new earth with hope, confidence, and joy.

WELCOME

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22-24, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #525 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight.
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

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(1)

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way;

People: by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Almighty God, our Lord and King, we confess to you that we have strayed like lost sheep and deserve nothing of your kindness toward us. We have sought our own way and it has led us only to guilt and death. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray you to forgive us our sins, cleanse our hearts and minds, and restore us as your own children. Grant us the aid of your Holy Spirit that we may believe in Jesus Christ alone, trust in His redeeming work, and live lives worthy of our baptismal calling as your children. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever.

Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24* (As a shepherd seeks out his flock, so the Lord will gather His sheep.) " 'For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will

search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice." 'Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (For as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.) But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

5:00 ANTHEM

"Giving Thanks"

Jr. High Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31–46* (Come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you before the foundation of the world.) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison

and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #712

"Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

SERMON

"And You Invited Me In"

Matthew 31:46

(Rise)

APOSTLES' 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us join our hearts and minds together in prayer, trusting that God our Father will hear and answer us. Almighty and everlasting God, on this last Sunday in the church year, we turn our thoughts to that great and awesome day when Jesus will come again to gather His elect from every time and place.

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People: For the believer, it will be a time of joy, peace and fulfillment; but for those who do not believe, it will be a time of terror and shame.

Pastor: Father, we don't know the day or the hour. Your Word only says that the time is short. Bless mission efforts around the world, especially Pastor Ferry in Indonesia and Groundwork Guatemala.

People: Give each of us a heart for the lost — and the courage to speak the truth to them in love. Turn their hearts to you, O Lord! Grant them saving faith in Jesus and the blood He shed for our salvation and the salvation of all.

Pastor: Bless the families of our congregation, dear Lord. For those who are struggling, we pray for grace and forgiveness to heal the wounds. Give wisdom and patience and good humor to fathers and mothers — the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

People: Bless our families by your unconditional love, which always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Guide our children in the way of truth, and protect them from the evil one.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the precious gifts given in Holy Baptism, our adoption by grace, the forgiveness of our sins, and our connection to Christ. Bless especially Corine Hailey Fornal, who is baptized into Christ this Sunday.

People: Bless parents and sponsors to be good examples for Corrine, to raise her in the nurture and admonition of Jesus, and to bring her to worship to join the praises of the redeemed.

Pastor: Bless the leaders of our congregation, pastors, teachers and all who serve. Grant us harmony and a willing spirit to sustain us as we serve as your body in this place. Bless our church and school by the Spirit of grace.

People: Gather us around your Word and Sacraments, by your Spirit use these means to nourish our souls. Forgive and renew us, Father; we bear your name.

Pastor: Be with those we know and love who are sick or suffering especially Arline, Ken, Ginger, Robert, Pastor Stanton, Gretchen, Jack, Mark, Richard Rosalie and Sarah. Comfort them with your own presence, Lord.

People: Strengthen their faith and, if it be your will, restore their health. Thank you for your assurance that you never leave us or forsake us.

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Pastor: Help us be a light in this darkening world. Bless those who fight for the rights and the lives of the pre-born. Give them courage and “the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary”.

People: Bless those who serve in mercy ministries for the hungry, sick, destitute or imprisoned. Provide for the needs around us through your bounty, Father. You have blessed us so richly; open our hearts to those in need that they may know there is a God who cares.

Pastor: Almighty God, break the chains of addiction. So many people are in bondage in this sin-sick world. Our culture and society embraces and glorifies things that you hate, O Lord!

People: Lead us by your Spirit. Restrain the tempter’s power. Hinder ungodly influences in our lives and cause all good and virtuous industry to prosper. Turn the hearts of the nation to you, O Lord. Your Kingdom come!

Pastor: We give thanks to you for all your goodness, Heavenly Father, rejoicing especially with Jerry Peich and Mae Perschbacher, celebrating their 99th and 100th birthdays and Sandra and Louis as they celebrate their 53rd anniversary.

People: Grant us all thankful hearts as we rejoice in all your blessings.

Pastor: Father, we are yours. Hear and answer our prayers as you see fit, for we know that your will is always best and we know that you love us, lead us, and bless us for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We pray in His name.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(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 #537 “Beautiful Savior”

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shine purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration Now and forever-more be Thine!

HYMN #851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed ‘Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, “You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be , O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv’n to you”?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

HYMN #711 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: O God of glory, you have shown yourself to be a God of love and compassion, forgiving the sins of your people for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Bring us at last with Him to see your glory face-to-face, when He comes as Lord and Judge of all to usher in your eternal kingdom which you prepared for us before the world was made. Give us eyes of faith to recognize His presence among us through His Word and in Christ's true body and blood, and to acknowledge Him when He comes again on that final and great day, to reunite heaven and earth; through 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 on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #837

"Lift High the Cross"

Refrain Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. **Refrain**

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

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| Preacher | Pastor Gregg Stanton |
| Liturgist | Pastor Harold Bender |
| Lectors | Dan Vaclav, John Ficken |
| Acolytes | Claire Igielski, Thomas Kadolph |
| Puppet Ministry | Laurel Privatt |
| Organist | Roger Gottschalk |
| Jr. High Choir Director | Shannon Wiegert |
| Music Coordinator | Kim Woller |

Advent Devotional Booklets

This year we have two options for you. "Prepare ye the Way," written by Andrew Bartelt will follow our Advent midweek themes of preparing for the coming of the Lord. The other devotional booklet is produced by Lutheran Indian Ministries which seek to share the gospel with every native American tribe. Booklets are available in the narthex & by the elevator. Take one or both and prepare well for the coming of Christmas.

Thanksgiving Worship
November 26th at 6:00pm & November 27th at 9:00am
We will also be collecting canned goods & non-perishable food items to be delivered to our needy members, as well as Hope Lutheran's Food Pantry.