

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The Time For Living

November 23 & 24, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Jesus is what it's all about. As we recognize the Last Sunday of the Church Year, our Scripture readings remind us of what the Church, and our faith as Christians, is founded on---Christ Jesus and His cross. As the apostle Paul in today's Epistle puts it, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (*1 Corinthians 1:18*). Jesus' death on Good Friday truly is "the power of God," but it's not the end of the story of salvation. Also central to our faith is Jesus' death-defeating resurrection on Easter and His final victory on the Last Day. We proclaim this truth as we contemplate the hymn text, *The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks, When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes. Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die, But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.* LSB 348:1-2 Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt. Public domain. Death, resurrection, return---it's all about Jesus.

WELCOME

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING 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.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Be still, and know that I am God.

People: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Pastor: The LORD of hosts is with us;

People: the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with you there is forgiveness; that you may be feared.

Pastor: On this Last Sunday of the Church Year, we gather around Word and Sacrament. Before receiving these means of grace from our gracious God, we first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. The due reward for our sinful deeds is death and hell. Acknowledging our sin, we take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: Jesus remember me and have mercy on me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE #508 “The Day Is Surely Drawing Near” Stanza 7

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.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you reign among us by the preaching of your cross. Forgive your people their offenses that we, being governed by your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into your eternal paradise; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Malachi 3:13-18 (*Distinction between the righteous and the wicked*)

“You have said harsh things against me,” says the Lord. “Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’ ‘You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper and even those who challenge God escape.’” Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. “They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

EPISTLE Colossians 1:13-20 (*He is before all things.*) For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

5:00 ANTHEM

“Lord Make Us Worthy”

Jr. High Choir

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #354 “Arise, O Christian People”

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us, by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav’nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation It is the Lord’s delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

SERMON

“It’s About Time”

Luke 10:38-42

(Rise)

NICENE CREED 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 OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us approach the throne of God's grace with boldness, confident that our Father in heaven hears and answers our prayers.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

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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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 #658 "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this later day. And let Your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Your Church, we pray. O keep our faith from failing: Keep hope's bright star aglow. Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below.

Preserve, O Lord, Your honor, The bold blasphemer smite; Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night. Reveal Your will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below, Great light of all the living, That all Your name may know.

Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, Bought dearly with Your blood; Protect what You have chosen Against the hellish flood. Be always our defender When dangers gather round; When all the earth is crumbling, Safe may Your Church be found.

Preserve Your Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole, The mirror of Your glory, The pow'r that saves the soul. Oh, may this living water, This dew of heav'nly grace, Sustain us while here living Until we see Your face.

Preserve in wave and tempest Your storm-tossed little flock; Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock. Stand at the helm, our pilot, And set the course aright; Then we will reach the harbor In Your eternal light.

HYMN #547

"The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
 The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.

Refrain

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill.

Refrain

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.

Refrain

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.

Refrain

HYMN #516 “Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying”

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,” The watchmen on the heights are crying;
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed
us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you
would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent
love toward one another; 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: For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

People: but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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 #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!

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Debbie Ulbing, Laurel Privatt, Dan Vaclav
Acolytes	Thomas Quigley, Brian Schaber, Noah Zimmermann
Skit: The Harried Hendersons	Janet Johnson, Pastor Stanton
Jr. High Choir Director	Shannon Wiegert
Organist	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller



Thanksgiving Worship

*“Sing to the Lord of harvest,
sing songs of love and praise” LSB #893*

Wednesday November 27th at 6:00pm

Thursday November 28th at 9:00am

*We will be collecting non-perishable food items & toiletries
for our needy at St. Paul’s & for Hope Lutheran Church’s
food pantry. You may bring your donation to church with
you on Thanksgiving & bring it up to the altar.*

Thank You!



Advent By Candlelight: Ladies, you are invited to make your reservations this weekend following the Saturday service and between services on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. **Advent By Candlelight** is December 8th at 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a beautiful experience for you. You will experience fellowship, beautifully decorated tables, dessert, and a program presented by the women of St. Paul’s Choir.

A Seating Reminder: We have special places in our sanctuary for our members who use wheelchairs or walkers and we’ve just added a couple more areas. The smaller areas are for those with walkers and the larger empty space for someone in a wheelchair. Please remember that these people who have disabilities usually have family sitting near them, so please leave the seating space nearest these areas for the family members of the individual. Thanks for your cooperation.

Aid for Victims of Typhoon Haiyan: A typhoon has brought devastation to the Philippine islands. Nearly 2,000 people are confirmed dead and the damage to property and infrastructure is extensive. Our brothers and sisters of the Lutheran Church of the Philippines are struggling to deal with the devastation surrounding them. Our LCMS is sending a Disaster Response Team and initial financial aid. Please keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers. Financial gifts to supply basic necessities of life can be made at lcms.org/disaster.

St. Paul’s Rangerette’s are collecting winter coats to benefit the homeless in our area. A collection box will be placed in the narthex for your donation. See your November Herald for more details.

St. Paul’s 6th Grade Rangerettes are in need of **wool sweaters** (NON WASHABLE). They are working on their sewing/felting badge projects. If you could help donate, please contact Kerri Wendt at 524-9326 to arrange pick-up of sweaters. Thank you!

Kelly Crist is in need of your **college students name & address** so St. Paul’s Youth can send them encouragement & care packages. Please call Kelly at 414-604-0590.