

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The Return of Christ
November 24 & 25, 2018
5:00PM & 8:00AM

AS WE GATHER

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. Next week we will turn our attention to Advent and preparations for the celebration of Christ's incarnation. But as we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming, we also anticipate His second coming. Christ's return in glory is the focus of this service. Jesus calls on His followers to stay awake and remain prepared for His coming. He warns that no one knows the day or the hour of His return. But He promises He is returning and returning soon.

WELCOME

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. Revelation 1:7

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #669 "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

**Refrain: We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.**

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly King, but children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad. **Refrain**

The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields, Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets. **Refrain**

Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high, To fairer worlds on high. **Refrain**

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord reigns!

People: He is robed in majesty!

Pastor: The world is established.

People: It shall not be moved.

Pastor: God's throne is established from of old.

People: Our God is from everlasting.

Pastor: His decrees are very trustworthy.

People: Holiness befits the Lord's house forevermore.

Pastor: Christ is coming soon.

People: Therefore stay awake and remain prepared.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Christ is coming again and coming soon. Although we know this, although we have heard His words and warning, we have not always acted as though Christ were coming soon. At times we have grown complacent and lazy, focused on the things of this world rather than on Christ, His Word, and His salvation. As we gather together in the Lord's house, let us consider our failure to live according to His holiness. Heavenly Father,

People: we have not always lived according to your Word. We have fallen asleep in the comfort of our sins. We have not stayed awake and remained prepared for the return of your Son, Jesus Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and stir us up so that we might prepare ourselves and others for Christ's return.

Pastor: Because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, you are presented blameless before the presence of God. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. To God be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill 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'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, 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.

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

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 & 8:00 Sung with Choir "When the Darkness Claims the Moon"

Choir: When the darkness claims the moon, Watch and wait for My returning.
Stay awake! I'm coming soon. Keep your lamps alive and burning.
Train your gaze upon the skies; I will strengthen weary eyes.

Choir: Peace, take heart; I will come back, Though the hours seem long and dreary.
When enduring each attack, Turning vision dim and bleary,
Know that I endured the grave— Conqu'ring hell, your soul to save.

All: Tell the world the time is near. I will come in awesome glory.
Wait in hope and do not fear; Never cease to tell My story.
To all corners, share the Word Till all ears have clearly heard.

3 continued

All: Surely, I will come again; Heaven's powers will be shaken.
Hear the saints all cry, "Amen!" Earthen treasures now forsaken.
I will bring you to My side; There in peace, we will abide.
Text: Lisa M. Clark. Copyright © 2015 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 51:4–6* (God's salvation will be forever.)
"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

EPISTLE *Jude 20–25* (Keep yourselves in the love of God.)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

(Rise)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 13:24–37* (Stay awake and keep prepared for Christ's coming.) "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather

4 continued

his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON 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!

SERMON

"Be On Your Guard...Keep Awake"

Jude 20-25

(Rise)

NICENE CREED I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING 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)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Heavenly Father, as we live in a world subjected to sin and destined for destruction, you have revealed a Kingdom that shall never be destroyed.

People: In these dark and latter days, set the hearts of your children on what lasts, and help us to be a people who wait with anticipation for the glorious appearing of Christ the King.

Pastor: God of grace, your Son has warned us to keep watch and be awake in these latter days, that we might not drift away into unbelief.

People: Help us all to be spiritually alert, aware of the spiritual dangers and temptations that surround us, and always finding our refuge in Christ.

Pastor: Kind and merciful One, your Son came into the world to bear witness to the truth. Open the mouths of all servants of your Word, and enable them to speak truly and boldly of Jesus.

People: Support all who serve in the church, including our Together in Mission partners, the Ferry's and Rachel Meyer. Raise up also new workers to spread your Word and speak your promises.

Pastor: Lord of salvation, bless, abide with, and protect all who are in danger or suffering loss due to the wildfires that continue to rage in California.

People: Mercifully remember all those whose lives and property are threatened as well as firefighters who place their own lives in danger to save lives and property. Grant your comfort to all who mourn their loss.

Pastor: Omnipotent One, your Son is truly the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Remember in your mercy our president and Congress, and all who bear office in our land.

People: Give them wisdom to know what is right, courage to follow it and integrity to do so in honor.

Pastor: Ancient of Days, you know the secret of our hearts. Give to us genuine repentance and faith, that we may live ever mindful of your Day of Judgment, knowing that you alone can keep and guard our souls.

People: Keep us from stumbling and, in the end, present us blameless before the presence of your glory with great joy.

Pastor: Lord of life, it is your great love that binds us together and holds us fast in all our relationships. Therefore we join in thanksgiving with Scott and Shelly Mueller as they celebrate their 30th wedding Anniversary and Nick & Jeannie Fischer celebrating their 3rd anniversary.

People: Continue to bless them by your love and mercy and grant them to cherish one another all their days.

Pastor: Giver of every good gift, we rejoice in your goodness day by day.

People: We rejoice with the Gieschen family as they celebrate Sue's 85th birthday.

Pastor: In the midst of heaven and earth that pass away, we beg you, Father, to strengthen by the Words that will never pass away all who are in any affliction or trouble, heartache or pain particularly your servants Larry, Marge, Dolores, Bob, Herb, Cliff, Cindy, Scott, LuEva, Dick, Nancy, Jan, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, Arlene, John, Jack, Arlene, Shirley, Jonathan, Leonard and Sarah.

People: Remove from them all fear, and help them to look forward to their full and final healing at the appearing of your Son.

Pastor: Father of glory, in your Son's Eucharist He invites us to taste and see His goodness and love. Prepare our hearts to welcome Him as He comes to us in His most holy body and blood.

People: By this sacred gift, grant us the joy of forgiveness, the peace of His presence and the hope of beholding our King's glory in the age to come.

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Receive our thanks and praise for all those who have died in the faith, and bring us to share with them in the splendors of the new heaven and the new earth. Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Page 210

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 #621 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears a way.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

HYMN #549 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, ye heirs of David’s line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget the wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

HYMN #905 “Come, Thou Almighty King”

Come, Thou Almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all glorious, O’er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

Come, holy Comforter. Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev’ry heart,
And ne’er from us depart, Spirit of pow’r.

(Rise) To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore!
Thy sov’reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith as we wait for Christ’s return, that on the day of His coming we may be awake and prepared to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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 #879

“Stay With Us”

Stay with us, till night has come: Our praise to You this day be sung.
Bless our bread, Open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.

Walk with us, our spirits sigh: Hear when our weary spirits cry,
Feel again Our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to Your side.

Walk with us, the road will bend: Make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our eyes Forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.

Talk with us, till we behold A joyful life You will unfold:
Heal our eyes To see the prize: Jesus, take us to the light.

Stay with us, till day is done: No tears nor dark shall dim the sun.
Cheer the heart, Your grace impart: Jesus, bring eternal life.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Children’s Message
Acolytes
Organist
Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Noah Kegley
Debbie Ulbing, Debra Nier
Laurel Privatt
Brooke Hluchnik, Lillia Carson
Michelle Prince
Nancy Hoelke