



End Times – Last Judgment

November 7, 8, 9, 2020

WORSHIP FOCUS

Today the Church prays that God keep us ever mindful of the Last Judgment that we might be found in faith, fruitful in both word and deed. Then there's no need to fear Judgment Day; rather, we can look forward to the day of our redemption.

SERVICE OF WORD and SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN – 398 *Lord, We Confess Our Numerous Faults*

**Lord, we confess our num'rous faults,
How great our guilt has been,
How vain and foolish all our thoughts,
How deeply stained with sin.**

**But oh, my soul, forever praise,
Forever love, his name
Who turns your feet from dang'rous ways
Of folly, sin, and shame.**

**'Tis not by works of righteousness
Which our own hands have done,
But we are saved by God's free grace
Abounding through his Son.**

**'Tis from the mercy of our God
That all our hopes begin;
'Tis by the water and the blood
Our souls are saved from sin.**

**'Tis through the purchase of his death
Who hung upon the tree
The Spirit is sent down to breathe
On such dry bones as we.**

**Raised from the dead, we live anew; And, justified by grace,
We shall appear in glory, too, And see our Father's face.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

P: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



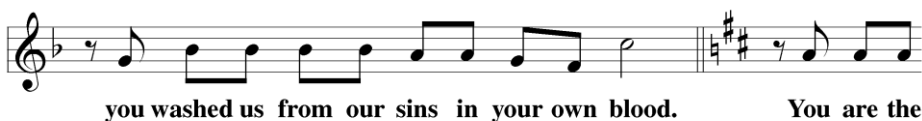
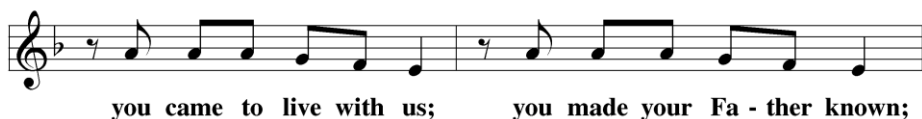
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

PRAYER of the DAY (spoken together)

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Daniel 7:9-10

⁹I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothes were white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

CHOIR (Sat./Sun. 8:00)

Lord, to You I Pray

(No Psalm or Choir Sunday 10:30 or Monday)

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, ²for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, ⁵for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

⁷To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

VERSE OF THE DAY

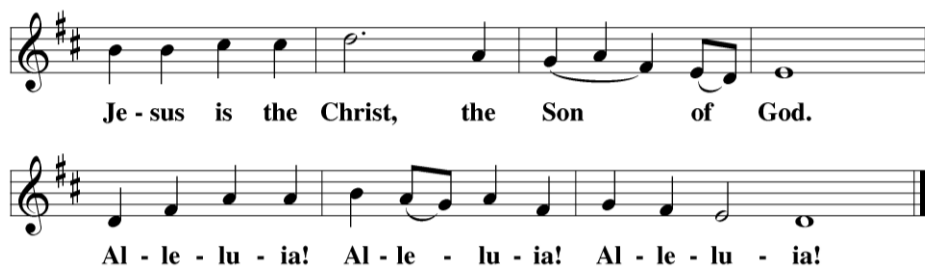
Alleluia. Watch, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. (Matthew 24:42)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ³⁶I was lacking clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or lacking clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰“The King will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you did not give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you did not give me anything to drink. ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, lacking clothes and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not take care of me.’

⁴⁴“Then they will also answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or lacking clothes or sick or in prison and did not serve you?’

⁴⁵“At that time he will answer them, ‘Amen I tell you: Just as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it for me.’ ⁴⁶And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



HYMN OF THE DAY – 207

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

The day is surely drawing near
When God's Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear
As judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease
When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teaches.

A trumpet loud shall then resound
And all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found
Shall from their sleep awaken
And with the living in that hour
By the Almighty's boundless pow'r
Be changed at his commanding.

A book is 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.

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!

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently;
Come soon, Redeemer; make us free
From ev'ry evil. Amen.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532-99, abr.; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832-1919, alt.

Sermon

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Walk in the Daylight

NICENE CREED

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

WE BELIEVE in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

WE BELIEVE in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR LAST JUDGMENT

P: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.

C: Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.

P: Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow that we have sinned and deserve only your anger and punishment.

C: If you kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.

P: We confess with joy that your unfailing love has redeemed us.

C: Our hope is in you and in your full redemption.

P: Around us we see the birth pangs of the last days: war, famine, earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy.

C: Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.

P: Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as judge.

C: Make us faithful in sharing your Word, and cause many more to put their hope in you before the end comes.

P: Build our fellowship of love as brothers and sisters in faith.

C: Help us support one another when trials and troubles come our way.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. Amen.

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LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Sanctus



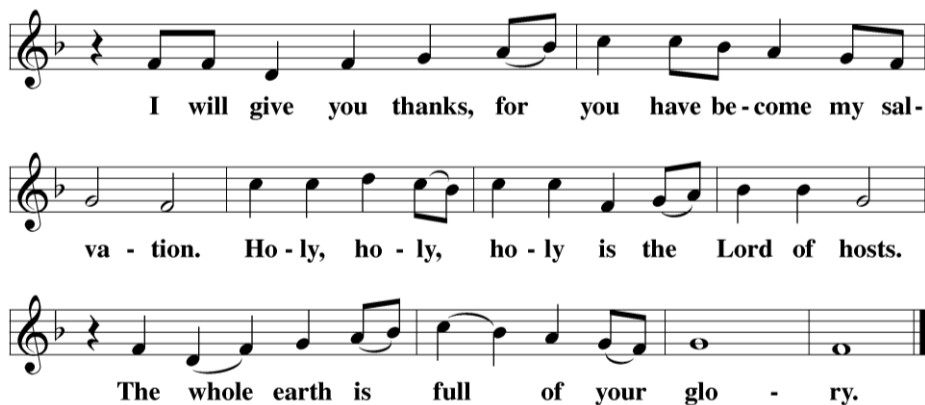
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-
va-tion. Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo-ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

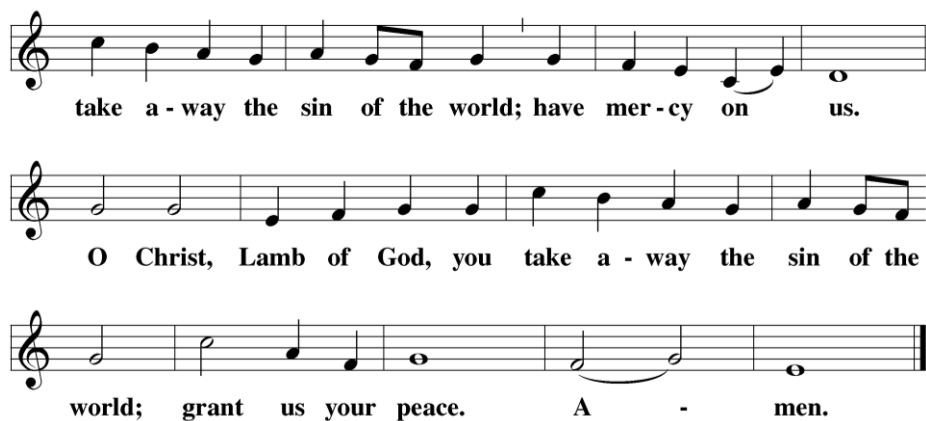


C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

For our Visitors: “May I receive the Lord’s Supper here today?”

The Lord’s Supper is a priceless medicine for the soul. We do everything we can to encourage its proper use. We also recognize from God’s Word (1 Corinthians 11:23-32) that this medicine is a prescription item. Used for the wrong reasons by someone who does not understand it correctly, the Lord’s Supper can actually cause spiritual harm. For that reason we, like the corner druggist, do not dispense it over-the-counter. Out of concern for each individual’s spiritual welfare, we try to ensure that communion will be properly used by all in accord with our Lord’s own will. We ask that if you have not received this sacrament here before, to please refrain from communing until you have had an opportunity to talk with one of our pastors. We also offer a light color non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray for those who cannot have alcohol because of medical conditions.

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN – 220 *O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking*

O'er the distant mountains breaking

Comes the redd'ning dawn of day.

Rise, my soul, from sleep awaking;

Rise and sing and watch and pray.

'Tis your Savior, 'Tis your Savior,

On his bright returning way.

**Come, O Long-Expected; weary
Waits my spirit anxiously.
Life is dark and earth is dreary
Where your light I cannot see.
O my Savior, O my Savior,
When will you return to me?**

**Nearer is my soul's salvation;
Spent the night, the day at hand.
Keep me in my humble station,
Watching for you till I stand,
O my Savior, O my Savior,
In your bright, your promised, land,**

**With my lamp well-trimmed and burning,
Swift to hear and slow to stray,
Watching for your glad returning,
Waiting for the blessed day.
Come, my Savior, Come, my Savior,
O my Savior, quickly come!**

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, abr., alt.

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SERVING US TODAY

Preacher – Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

Liturgist – EFT Caleb Gustafson

Organist – Dee Ann Techlin