

# Sunday of the End Times!

November 21, 2021

Lutherans understand **the End Times** as dealing with our mortal death, but more importantly with the return of Jesus Christ and the life and the world to come.

Many well-meaning Christians have and will continue to attempt to predict when Christ will return even though Jesus Himself said no one can predict when He will return (Matthew 24:36).



Lutherans do not fear the return of Christ for we know that our future is safe and secure due to our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

## + Order of Worship +

### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to His call we have acknowledged our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. 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 (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Let us pray: Lord God, govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit. Make us mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your return to judge the world. As we await Your coming, stir us up to lead holy lives, and let us live with You forever. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**C Amen.**

### **The First Reading**

**Malachi 4:1-3**

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. 3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **Alleluia**

P Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:25,26a NRSV).

**C Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel**

**Mark 13:1-8**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

As He came out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" 2 Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pains.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

P "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1). Surrounded by those who have gone before us, we confess the faith of the Church.

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

P In the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus for the world, the church, and one another. (*Moment of Silence*)

P Eternal God, we acknowledge You as the source of all we have and all we are. Help us to place You first in our lives by becoming more prayerful, more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things. Help us to hear your call to be good stewards, caretakers, and managers of all your gifts by sharing them for your purposes. Help us make your priorities our priorities and to put our faith into action. Help us plan to "give back" the talents, treasures and time with which we have been blessed. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, You have made it very clear that choosing to follow You will put us at odds with this world. As much as we try to fit in and be accepted, we realize that this world will never fully accept us or Your message. Shield, strengthen and bless those who face times of trials and temptations. Help each of us to remember them in prayer. Prepare us too for whatever troubles come, that we may not grow weary of doing good. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

- P In this season of preparation, we remember the promise the angels gave to the Disciples at Jesus Ascension: "This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). We look forward to the return of our Lord which will bring to an end all suffering, sorrow and death. Keep our spiritual eyes focused on the Promise of His return and help us to celebrate now as He comes to us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C Hear our prayer.**

**(In Our Prayers)**

Pat Fitzenreiter (at home)  
Franklin Stultz – (at home)  
Irene Day (Hillhaven - Beltsville)  
Pam Brown (Larkin Chase Care Rehabilitation Center – Bowie)  
Dorothea Leslie (Sunrise at Montgomery Village Senior Living)  
Cherie Aker (daughter of Frances Jordan – cancer treatment)  
Mark Travaglini (brother-in-law of Susan Lucero – health issues)  
Alexis Duffy (Godchild of Greg and Cindy Clem suffering from stage 4 cancer)  
David Shepherd (husband of Wendy Shepherd)

**Birthdays:** Nancy Birner (11/21); Elizabeth Kibler (11:21).

- P Lord God, into Your merciful hands we commend all for whom we pray, confident that for the sake of Jesus, You hear and answer. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

- P In thanksgiving to God for His Son's presence among us, let us pray:
- C 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 not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Dismissal and Benediction**

- P As we leave, do not forget that neither time nor space separates us from our Lord Jesus Christ and from our loved ones in heaven.
- P The God of peace – Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant – make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight. In the Name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**

**Blessing**

P My friends, life on earth is short and there is not always that much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love, swift to be kind and make haste to forgive. Always remember that God is more concerned about our future than with our past.

C Amen.

### Postlude

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