
LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 25 & 26, 2017

AS WE GATHER

“To be continued . . .” Those simple words sometimes show up on the screen at the conclusion of a television show, announcing that something is yet to come to complete what has already been presented. The theme of the Last Sunday of the Church Year is that sort of message. Over the past Church Year, the history of salvation in Christ has been presented, and the work of the Holy Spirit through the Church has been celebrated. Now, the return of Christ the King is awaited, when the divine plan is unfolded. To what has been, what is now, and what will be in God’s design, we add our joyful “Amen!”

HYMN

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

LSB 490

Stand CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us 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. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As an 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.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

INTROIT

*Ps. 39:4-5, 7-8, 12a;
antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

- P** In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
- C** O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!
- P** Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
- C** And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.
- P** Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!
- C** Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!
For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

KYRIE

LSB 204

- C** ♪ *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

C ♪ *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 sole-begotten, 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 worshiped and adored;
 You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
 In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.*

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited

places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.

¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.”

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Rev. 7:14b; Ps. 84:5

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
They have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

C **Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he

must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand ALLELUIA AND VERSE

C **♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

***These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31–46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

³¹[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the 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, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And the King will answer them,

‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

[Saturday] **NICENE CREED**

C 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.

[Sunday] APOSTLES' CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.
From thence 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.

Sit CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN *If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death LSB 486*

SERMON “Christ the Firstfruits” 1 Corinthians 15:21-23

Stand **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For all the people of God, that they may always be prepared for the Son of Man to return in glory by continually being kept safe and secure in the Lord’s flock, where they are fed and nourished by His Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who are scattered and gone astray, that by the power of the Holy Spirit they may be returned to the fold before Christ returns to judge the living and the dead, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all pastors in Christ, that they may remain ever faithful in proclaiming our death in Adam and our resurrection in Christ as we ever look forward to the resurrection of the dead, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all in authority, that even as the kingdoms of this world are passing away, they may be granted wisdom and protection as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the hungry, that they may be granted daily bread as they have need of it, and that the Lord’s servants may be moved to provide for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are imprisoned, that they may be granted those who are willing to visit them with the Gospel of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick, [including _____,] that they may be granted healing in body and soul, and that they would be

granted comforters to visit them in their affliction, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who receive the Lord's body and blood this day, that they may be granted eternal life and resurrection on the Last Day, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all the faithful departed, that we remember them with thankfulness and look forward to the day when we are reunited with them in the world to come, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit OFFERING

While we worship the Lord with our offerings, please write your names in the fellowship registers, indicating the date and time of the service you are attending. To help us serve you more effectively, please use the blanks provided to indicate a change in mailing address, phone numbers (home, work, cell, fax) or e-mail address(es). Please tear out the sheets with names on them and let them stick out of the top of the folder so that the ushers can collect them. Thank you!

Service of the Sacrament

Stand PREFACE

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless

blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 208

☩ ♪ *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

- 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 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

- C** *♪ 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.*

Sit DISTRIBUTION

The Lamb LSB 547
Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray LSB 623

Stand NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 211

- C** *♪ O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:*

***A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.***

***All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.***

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A 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 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.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

C Amen.

HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

LSB 922

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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