

1 THESSALONIANS 5:2 NIV

For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.



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Second Sunday of End Time—Last Judgment November 8, 2020

Welcome to this outdoor service. Today will surely be the last opportunity for outdoor worship in the calendar year 2020. The Sacrament of the Altar will be offered after the service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Today is the 2nd Sunday in November. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will meet inside after the outdoor fellowship.

Bathrooms are located just off the lower entryway. Something to eat and drink will be provided outside after the service today.

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God Comforts His People with His Forgiveness

THEME FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: Lord, keep us mindful of the Judgment! He will come to judge the living and the dead. We confess it every Sunday, but often live like those are empty words. Moses' psalm on the mortality of man shakes us from our spiritual slumber. Number your days aright and gain a heart of wisdom! 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.

(Christian hymns preach Jesus Christ: crucified, risen and seated at God's right hand.)

HYMN CW 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!**

Please stand.

(The work of worship belongs to every Christian. Each of us stands as a priest before God.)

INVOCATION

(The sign of the cross may be made by those present in remembrance of their Baptism.)

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION

(1 John 1:8-9)

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

M: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C: and cleanse me from my sin! *Psalm 51:1, 2*

M: Let us then confess our sins to God, our gracious Father.

M & C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we poor sinners beseech You to hear our words of repentance. We have sinned against You and have transgressed Your commands in thought, word, and deed. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for all of our sins, both known and unknown to us. Have mercy on us because of Jesus, our Savior. Grant that, by the working of the Holy Spirit, we may walk as Your forgiven and restored children here on earth until that time when we finally come into Your glorious heavenly presence.

ABSOLUTION

(John 20:21-23)

(“The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to His church on earth: to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners.” Luther’s Small Catechism: The Use of the Keys and Confession.)

M: God has promised His mercy and forgiveness to those who repent of their sins and turn to Him in repentance and humility. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May our merciful Lord keep you steadfast in the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

(Mark 10:47)

(These are the words to the oldest canticle in the Christian church, the Kyrie.)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from You all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M. For the spread of Your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in You, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of eternal life as we await Your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M. Lord of life, live in us that we may live for You.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (CW 256 vs. 1,3,4)

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to Thee, "How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"
 Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to Thee, "How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"**

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin.**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to Thee, "How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"
 Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to Thee, "How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to Thee, "How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"
 Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to Thee, "How great Thou art! How great Thou art!"**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

(The salutation is a Christian greeting, offered here for mutual encouragement as the congregation prepares to hear God's word.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

[We sit at the feet of Jesus like Mary did, to hear His word (Luke 10:42).]

FIRST LESSON DANIEL 7:9,10 *(Daniel sees a vision of the Last Judgment that is filled with fire and thrones and books. God the Father is seated on His throne with fire beneath Him and flowing out from Him—fire that metes out punishment for the unrighteous but refines believers like gold with the dross removed. Who doesn't shudder when he/she sees Daniel's vision of God and then hears the somber statement, "The books were opened"? Being mindful of the coming judgment means knowing that one day the books will be opened, and God will judge us according to what is in them. But look carefully: there is not just one throne here! Daniel said "thrones" were set in place. See who else is at the judgment. The Son of God has a throne there (Psalm 110). So do the apostles (Mt 19:28). Yes, the same Jesus who died for us will be there to advocate for us; the same apostles who preached Jesus Christ risen for the forgiveness of sins will be there to call us part of their Church. Look at Revelation 20:11-15 and see the rest of the story. There are two kinds of books: books of deeds that record what each person has done, and a book that holds only names. Unbelievers are judged on the basis of their deeds, but believers are judged on the simple fact that their names are written in the book of life. When we are mindful of that, we can rejoice and look forward to the end of this age when we will reign with Christ in glory.)*

⁹ "As I looked,

"thrones were set in place,

and the Ancient of Days took His seat.

His clothing was as white as snow;

the hair of His head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,

and its wheels were all ablaze.

¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing,

coming out from before Him.

Thousands upon thousands attended Him;

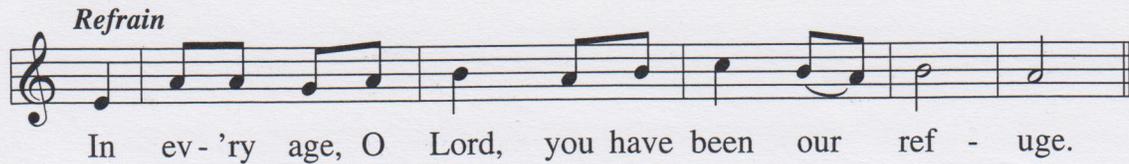
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.

The court was seated,

and the books were opened. (NIV 2011)

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 90 *(A Psalm of Moses)*



Lord, you have been our *d*welling place*
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth *and* the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has *just* gone by,*
or like a watch *in* the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you,*
our secret sins in the light of your *p*resence.

You turn mortals *b*ack to dust.*
You sweep them away in the *s*leep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—
or eighty, if we have the strength,*
yet their span is but trouble and *s*orrow.

Teach us to number our *d*ays aright,*
that we may gain a heart of *w*isdom.

Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your *un*failing love,*
that we may sing for joy and be glad *a*ll our days.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy *S*pirit,
as it was in the *b*eginning,*
is now, and will be forever. *A*men.**

EPISTLE LESSON 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 *(Being mindful of the judgment means living according to God's Word, not according to what the world says. The world tells itself again and again not to worry about God and His judgment. Peace and safety are its watchwords. Regardless of what the world says, the judgment is most certainly coming. When it comes on the world, it will be like a woman in labor—sudden, unstoppable, irreversible. Paul reminds us to be mindful of the coming judgment by living alert and self-controlled lives. We are believers and are as different from unbelievers as sheep are from goats, as day is from night. So*

let's live like it! We have been appointed to receive salvation, so let's live as sons of the light and sons of the day. Leave the deeds of darkness for this dark world whose cries of "Peace!" and "Safety!" will not stop the judgment from overtaking them.)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴ But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But 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. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. (NIV 2011)

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

Please Stand

(The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the words of Christ, our King.)

M: The gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL MATTHEW 25:31-46 *(The Son of Man came once as a humble baby, but will return as a glorious King with angel armies at His side. He will sit on His throne, and all the nations will be brought before Him to be judged. In this judgment, there are no shades of gray: you are either a sheep or a goat—there is no third option. You will either be judged righteous and brought to heaven or condemned and sent into eternal fire. In our present world we see so many shades of gray, but at the judgment the contrast between believer and unbeliever will be stark. Jesus' judgment on unbelievers will be a just one, yet completely opposite of what He had wanted. Hell was never meant for humans; it had been prepared for the devil and his angels. When children of Adam are sent to hell on Judgment Day, they will enter a realm never meant for them. From the creation of the world, God had prepared an inheritance for the sons of Adam, a kingdom that becomes ours not by merit, but by grace. Both sheep and goats fail to see how their earthly lives could possibly merit their eternal fate. In fact, they speak the same words. The contrast, however, is stark: the sheep had faith in Christ that gave evidence of itself in the world; the goats had neither faith nor true fruits. Both receive an eternal judgment—life for the sheep and punishment for the goats. Lord, keep us mindful of Your coming judgment that we might be found in faith, judged by Your grace, and gifted with eternal life!)*

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from

another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? ³⁹ When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'

⁴¹ "Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (NIV 2011)

After the Gospel:

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in God, the Father 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 worshipped 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.

Please be seated.

(The Hymn of the Day is a hymn specially assigned to this day for its richness, its content and its connection to the day's Gospel.)

HYMN OF THE DAY CWS 731 "The King Will Come at Age's End"

**The King will come at age's end, The trumpets trill, the heavens rend,
Unveiling new Jerusalem. Alleluia!**

**The book of life will name its names, Each bought by cross's bitter pain,
Each inked in blood and sealed in flame. Alleluia!**

**All-glorious on His gleaming throne, The King will claim His saints, His own,
And with them dwell and make a home. Alleluia!**

**And nights of tears, though late and long, Will disappear in splendid dawn,
And deeps of death will all be gone. Alleluia!**

**Amen, amen! Lord Jesus, come! My Savior fair, come bear me home.
For You are King of kings alone! Alleluia!**

THE SERMON

OFFERING *(Can be placed in the red box on the table.)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(1 Timothy 2:1)

LORD'S PRAYER

(Matthew 6:9-13)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER

M: Merciful God, grant that the spirit of Jesus may dwell and reign in our hearts, that we may enjoy Your peace and know the power of Your Spirit, bearing witness with our lives that we are indeed Your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

M: 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.
C: Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN CW 215 "Jerusalem, My Happy Home"

**Jerusalem, my happy home, When shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? The joys when shall I see?**

**When shall these eyes thy heav'n built walls And pearly gates behold,
Thy bulwarks with salvation strong And streets of shining gold?**

**Oh, when, thou city of my God, Shall I thy courts ascend?
Where evermore the angels sin, the Sabbath has no end.**

**Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there Around my Savior stand,
And soon my friends in Christ below Will join the glorious band.**

**O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare For that bright home of love
That I may see Thee and adore With all Thy saints above.**

Cleaning this Week: Berg / Bolzman

Today— Outdoor Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School, Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Monday—Tone Chime Choir rehearsal at 7:00 PM

Tuesday—Branch Connection at 7:00 PM

Thursday—Green Team at 6:30 PM

Friday—Men’s Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Sunday—Divine Service at 9:30 AM
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM
Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. A new sheet has been posted for the new year. Thanks to those who have signed up. Lots of spots can be filled.

Thanksgiving at New Life is observed with a Thanksgiving Eve service at 6:30 PM. The service is followed with a Stone Soup Supper. An ingredient list sign-up sheet can be found pinned to the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Adult Bible Class will meet in the chapel this morning at 10:45 AM. Class is using the Growing in Grace catechism curriculum.

We recently added a two-year-old toddler to the Little Sprouts program, bringing the enrollment back up to 4. We also added a four-year-old student this past week, bringing enrollment in that class to 10.



On October 26 and 27 Cindi Holman and Paul Patterson visited our preschool. Cindi and Paul made up the WELSSA accreditation team. Our preschool was accredited five years ago and was up for review. After interviewing parents, inspecting our facility, observing daily operations and pouring over the ten standards that needed to be met for accreditation, the team granted “exemplary status” to our preschool. Our score was even higher than five years ago. Thanks to Mike Spangle, Rachel Bauer, and Rachel Andrews for working on the ten standards. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to improve our preschool. Tree of Life—after five years—remains the only WELS “stand alone” preschool in our synod to receive WELSSA accreditation.