



*Stay Alert for Christ's Return*

Third Last Sunday of the Church Year  
November 12, 2023

# KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

## *Service of Preparation*

### **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

*Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.*

### **OPENING PRAYER**

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

### **HYMN**

*The King Shall Come* | #101

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**


*Confession and Absolution is a return to our Baptisms. In Confession, we take all our sins and throw them back into the baptismal font, burying them with Christ. Then in Absolution, the forgiveness of baptism is brought to us again, so that we may live new, resurrected lives today.*

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.


**C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word; to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN**


*Kyrie*



O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.



O God the Son, Re - deem - er of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O God the Ho - ly Ghost, true Com - fort - er, have mer - cy up - on us.

**ABSOLUTION**

**P: Lift up your hearts to God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us. He has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of Jesus' work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.**

## HYMN

*Gloria*

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -  
friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is  
end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And  
peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

# Service of the Word

*The final three weeks of the church year focus on how the Christian waits for the end. The readings for the Third Last Sunday of the church year tell us to be sure the end will really come and therefore to be watchful and ready at any moment.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray to be ready for Christ's return: Help us, Lord Jesus Christ, to wait for you, to wish for you, and to watch for you, so that when you come again you will find us ready. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:1–6

*Yahweh calls on Jerusalem to prepare to receive the exiles returning from Babylon; the time is close. God's promise of coming triumph will give you endurance to face your present problems.*

<sup>1</sup> Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. <sup>2</sup> Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter Zion, now a captive.

<sup>3</sup> For this is what the LORD says: "You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed."

<sup>4</sup> For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. <sup>5</sup> And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

*Encouraging one another to live in preparation for the Lord's return is more important than knowing the timing of his return.*

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup> for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> 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.

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### HYMN

*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* | #544

### SERMON

Matthew 25:1–13

*It is not enough to have faith today; we need to have faith when Jesus returns. We feed that faith by regularly receiving the gospel in word and sacrament.*

<sup>1</sup> "Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!'

<sup>7</sup> "All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'

<sup>9</sup> “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

<sup>13</sup> “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

*What does this Bible text teach me to confess?*

*What does this Bible text teach me to be thankful for?*

*What does this Bible text teach me to ask for?*

*What does this Bible text teach me to believe, think, feel, or do?*

**HYMN**

*Jerusalem, the Golden* | #534: v. 7–9, 14

# Service of Thanksgiving

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

*After God has spoken to us in the lessons from his Word, what shall we say but, "Lord, I believe"? That's exactly what we do say using one of the ancient creeds (Latin: 'I believe') of the church. And not only do we SAY, "I believe," we also recite WHAT we believe.*

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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.**

## OFFERING

*The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at [www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give](http://www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give).*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## HYMN

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* | #160: v. 1, 4, 8

## PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank you that because of your great mercy you have given us your holy and blessed word, by which you gather among us your Christian church. We humbly ask you: grant us your Holy Spirit, so that we receive your word with thankful hearts and live according to it, so that we always increase in Christian faith and hope and love, and so that we at last obtain eternal salvation. We pray through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C:** A - men, a - men, a - men.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

*Meditate on how Psalm 90 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.*

**Preacher**..... Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad  
**Organist (Sunday)**.....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)** ..... Jenny Merseth  
**Preservice pianist**..... Johnny Moldstad | **Grade 5 director (10:45)** .... Abby Marozick



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