



Stay Hopeful for Judgment Based on Grace

Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 26, 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.

HYMN

My Hope Is Built | #197

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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 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.

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

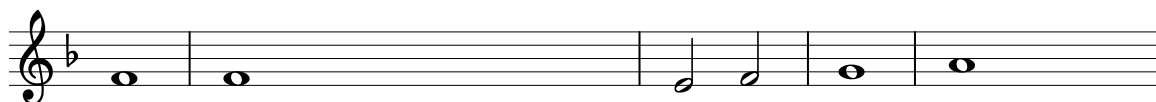
C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN


Gloria



Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward



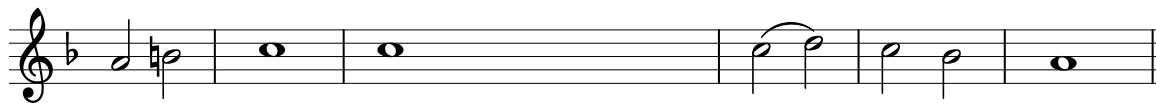
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



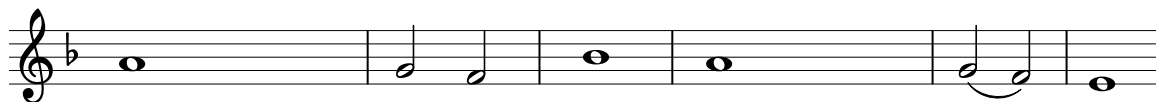
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly




King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.




You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.




Staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note Bb4, and finally quarter notes A4 and G4.

You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on




Staff 2: Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a double bar line. Then quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5, then a half note Bb4, and finally quarter notes A4, Bb4, and G4.

us. For you only are holy. You on - ly are the Lord.



Staff 3: Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4 and Bb4, then a half note C5, and finally a half note Bb4.

You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the



Staff 4: Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter notes A4 and Bb4, then quarter notes C5 and Bb4, then a half note G4, followed by a double bar line. Then a half note G4, and finally a half note F4.

glory of God the Father. A - men.

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 Last Sunday of the church year tell us not to fear the day Jesus returns to judge both the living and the dead but rather to hope for it. That will be our day of victory.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray for confidence in the Day of Judgment: Merciful Savior, you have taught us that those who believe in you will not be condemned, but have already passed from death to life. Give us faith in your forgiveness, so that we fearlessly wait for the time when you set us completely free. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 7:9–14

The Ancient of Days will judge and defeat his opponents. Then a son of man will be given a kingdom that will never pass away. Jesus' favorite designation for himself throughout all the Gospels is "the Son of Man."

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.

¹¹ Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. ¹² (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

¹³ In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25:31–46

The behaviors of both the sheep and the goats were not options they thought about. Who they were just came out that way; and Jesus could see the difference and judge accordingly.

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.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN

I Know of a Sleep in Jesus’ Name | #525

Don't worry that deceased believers will miss out on Christ's triumphant and very public return and the glorious future of the age to come. Jesus died so that believers only sleep.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Write down at least one reason to praise God (i.e., one of his attributes or characteristics).

Write down at least one sin to confess (actions, words, thoughts, desires).

Write down at least one reason to thank God for a good thing he has done in your life.

Write down two things to pray about for yourself.

Write down two things to pray about for other people.

HYMN

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.". The fourth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The fifth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.".

Service of Thanksgiving

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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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.

PRAYER

P: We ask you, almighty God, that you give your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above. We ask that your word may not be restrained but have freedom to be preached for the joy and learning of Christ's holy people. And we ask that in loyal faith we may serve you and live in the confession of your name until the end. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

The musical notation is on a single treble clef staff. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure contains a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The third measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on E4. A slur is placed under the notes of the third measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Meditate on how Psalm 95 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher..... Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Organist Timothy Krause



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