

**“LOOK, THE
BRIDEGROOM!**

**COME OUT TO
MEET HIM!”**



Sunday of the Last Judgment

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music

Opening Hymn: “Great God, What Do I See and Hear”
Christian Worship 208

God Places His Name on Us

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you!**

The Confession of Sins

P: In complete humility, we acknowledge the horror of our disobedience. It has separated us from the Lord and placed us under his judgment. It is why we humbly long to hear God’s gracious invitation: “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”
(Isaiah 1:18)



C: **Lord, have mer — cy.**

P: Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear to dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.
(Isaiah 59:2-3)



C: **Christ, have mer — cy.**

P: So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.

(Isaiah 59:9-10)

C: For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

(Isaiah 59:12-13)

P: Because the LORD looks and is displeased, we cry out;



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: “I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.” With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

(Isaiah 12:1-3)



C: A — — men!

P: In the peace of forgiveness you will say: “Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

(Isaiah 12:4-6)

Song of Praise

“Blessed are They, Forever Blest”
Christian Worship 383 st. 1, 2 & 4

Blessed are they, forever blest,
Whose guilt is pardoned by their God,
Whose sins with sorrow are confessed
And covered with their Savior’s blood.

Blessed are they to whom the Lord
Imputes not their iniquity.
They plead no merit or reward
And not on works but grace rely.

How glorious is that righteousness
That hides and cancels all their sins,
While bright the evidence of grace
Through all their lives appears and shines.

Prayer for the Day

P: O gracious Lord and Savior, Judge of all people, you have done everything to prepare us to stand holy and acceptable on the “Last Day.” Give us the faith we need to take full advantage of what you offer. Purify our hearts through your forgiveness. Strengthen us through your precious Word. Focus our complete attention on that final, blessed day when we will stand before you. It is only through you and your precious work that we can be prepared for the day of judgment and our rescue. Until we stand before you, draw us closer to you, and help us cling to you alone as the only source of rescue. After you have declared us not guilty, receive us into the place you have prepared for us. There we will praise you—together with your Father and the Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A ——— men.

The Lessons from God's Word
"Prepare us, O Lord, for Your Coming in Glory!"

Old Testament

Isaiah 52:1-6

¹Wake, awake! Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion. Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, you holy city, for never again will the uncircumcised and the unclean enter you.

²Shake off the dust. Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem. Loosen the chains from your neck, you captive daughter of Zion.

³Yes, this is what the LORD says. You were sold for nothing, and you will be redeemed without money.

⁴Yes, this is what the LORD God says. In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while. Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.

Now what do I have here? declares the LORD. Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing. Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD. My name is continually despised all day. ⁶Therefore my people will know my name. So on that day they will know that I am the one—the one who is saying, "Here I am!"

Response to the lesson

P: ¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. ²Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity you are God. For a thousand years in your sight are like a day, like yesterday that has gone by, or light a watch in the night. You sweep them away like a flood.

Congregation sings

"Yours Forever, God of Love"
Christian Worship 426 st. 1 & 2

Yours forever, God of love! Hear us from your throne above;
Yours forever, may we be here and in eternity!

Yours forever, Oh, how blest! They who find in you their rest!"
Savior, Guardian, heav'nly Friend, oh, defend us to the end.

Epistle*1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

¹Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, ²for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, ⁵for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

⁷To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

Respond to the lesson

P: ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy, so that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. ¹⁶Let your deeds be seen by your servants and your majesty by their children. ¹⁷May the kindness of the Lord our God rest upon us. Establish the work of our hands for us. Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Congregation sings

“Yours Forever, God of Love”
Christian Worship 426 st. 3 & 5

Yours forever, Lord of life! Shield us through our earthly strife.
You, the life, the truth, the way, guide us to the realms of day.

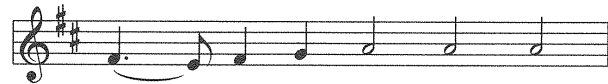
Yours forever! You our guide, all our needs by you supplied,
All our sins by you forgiv’n; lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

“¹At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. ¹¹Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ ¹³Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

P: This is the Word of our God.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

“Who Knows When Death”

Christian Worship 210

Sermon

Matthew 25:1-13

“Wise or Foolish?”

Our actions are important

Our preparations are crucial

The Confession of Faith

(we unite in the words of the Apostles' Creed)

**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.**

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks

Prayer for the Lord's Blessing

P: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.

C: Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.

P: Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow we have sinned
against you and deserve only your just judgment.

C: If you kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.

P: Yet, we confess with joy that your unfailing love in Jesus has
purchased our release.

C: Our hope is in you and in your full redemption.

P: Around us we see the beginning of the last days: war, famine,

earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy, and a lack of love.

C: Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.

P: Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as Judge and Savior.

C: Make us faithful in hearing and sharing your Word, and cause many to put their hope in you before the end comes.

P: Build the fellowship of love as we live together as brothers and sisters in the one true faith.

C: Help us support one another when distress, troubles, trials and temptations plague us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us to guide us, your strength be with us to renew us, and your presence to refresh us.

P: Hear us, as we also pray:

The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

Hymn

“O’er the Distant Mountains Breaking”
Christian Worship 220

Closing Prayer

P: O dearest Savior, you are our comfort and our confidence as we approach the day of judgment. We know we will have to stand before you. We also know through your precious work we will be able to stand with confidence. Give us the strength of faith we need to live every day watching and waiting for your return. Equip us to serve you faithfully making the most of the time you have given us on this earth. Keep us safe from the devil’s deceptions and the world’s distractions which would keep us from being prepared. At the end of all things, fill us with joy as you welcome us into your heavenly kingdom. There we will live with you and praise you—together with your Father and the Spirit—as our only true God and the God of our salvation.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

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 his favor; and
give you peace.



C: A - men. A — men. A — men.

Closing Hymn

“Forever with the Lord”
Christian Worship 213

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Today—*Welcome in our Savior’s name!* May the precious wisdom which is ours through the Gospel of Christ, fill us with joy and confidence as we look forward to, and prepare ourselves for the day of his glorious return.

- If you are visiting this morning, please sign a “visitor card” or the guest book. We also invite you to worship again, soon!
- Please join us for a cup of coffee and the gift of friendship following the worship service.
- Christian Education will follow at 11:00. We want to take to heart Paul’s encouragement of the Epistle lesson: “God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. “

Monday—Handbell practice at 7:00 pm

Wednesday—Bible Class at 7:00 pm. We will conclude the study on the posting of the 95 Theses and continue with Part 3—Disputation and the Final Break.

Friday—Office hours from 10:30—2:30 pm

Saturday—Clean: Scheffler

- Lawn moving beginning November 12th: C. Schueler

Sunday, November 19th—**Sunday Worship at 9:30 am.** As we approach the end of the church year, our thoughts are turned to the “great reward” prepared in heaven for all who believe. The picture of the saints in glory gives us the encouragement we need to know our life of faith is our greatest possession and treasure.

- Christian Education will follow the service.
- Pre-Thanksgiving pot-luck and fellowship will begin around 5:30 pm. Please check the sheet on the table outside for a sign up sheet and more information regarding what to bring and where you can help.

Thank You

To Jim Brown, our Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video portions of our live stream; to Sue Proeber for placing flowers on the altar—given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his rich blessing.



Acknowledgements

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