

A DAY OF DELIVERANCE FOR WHICH GOD'S
PEOPLE EAGERLY AWAIT



November 20, 2022



CHRIST Lutheran Church

"Our hope in Jesus is an anchor for the soul." Hebrews 6:19

500 Park Street | West Salem, WI 54669 | 608-786-1250

Pastor

Galen Riediger

Organist

Sunday: Jean McClellan

Monday: Jean McClellan

Usher Teams

Sunday 8AM: Team C

■ *Sunday 10:30AM: Team H*

■ *Monday 6:30PM: Osgood*

Mission Statement

With the help of the Triune God, our mission is to gladly nurture the spiritual and physical needs of our congregation, to train our children in the knowledge of the Lord, to reach out to others with the saving message of Jesus' love and forgiveness.

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

SERIES THEME: THE LAST DAY

Certain days mean different things to different people. Next June 10th might mean nothing to you... or... it might be the day you get married. Mother's Day can be a day of great joy to the woman with three children, all of whom profess their love and appreciation on that day. That same day can be extremely painful for the woman who has never been able to have children. Certain days mean different things to different people. That will be most true on the Last Day. On his calendar, God has written in ink the day when Jesus will return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed). In the final weeks of the church year it is natural for us to think about that Last Day and what it means. The Last Day will mean very different things to different people.

THEME OF THE DAY: A DAY OF DELIVERANCE FOR WHICH GOD'S PEOPLE EAGERLY AWAIT

Jesus promised, "I am coming soon" (Second Reading). But what does soon mean to the one who is the Alpha and Omega, the eternal God? We do not know. We want Christ to return quickly, because we know the Last Day will be a day of great deliverance for God's people. But how long will we have to wait? Will it be in a few months or a few millennia? We cannot know. As we await Christ's return, we want to avoid two extremes: impatience and indifference. Let us not despair if the deliverance of the Last Day does not come as quickly as we would like. But let us never doubt that that deliverance will indeed come. How do we avoid those extremes? How does Christ's church remain ready and watchful? In this last week of the Church Year, our Savior does what he has done all year—point us to his Scriptures. The Scriptures record countless promises that have already been fulfilled in Christ. That assures us that the as-of-yet unfulfilled promises are as good as done. There is no doubting that the Last Day will come. There is no doubting it will be a day of blessed deliverance for God's people.

THE SERVICE (SETTING THREE)

486 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Sung by the Choir

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 188

Absolution

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Be seated

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1–3; 2:1–4

¹The threatening oracle which the prophet Habakkuk saw. ²How long, LORD, must I cry for help, but you do not listen? I call out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save! ³Why do you cause me to see injustice? Why do you overlook misery? Devastation and violence confront me. There is strife, and tensions rise. ^{2:1}I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the city wall. I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my complaint. ²Then the LORD answered me. He said: Record the vision and write it plainly on tablets so that a herald may run with it. ³Indeed, the vision is waiting for the appointed time. It longs for fulfillment and will not prove false. If it seems slow in coming, wait for it, because it will certainly come and will not be delayed. ⁴Look, his soul is puffed up and is not righteous within him—but the righteous one will live by his faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

130 Out of the Depths

Choir and Pastor

Second Reading

Revelation 22:6–13

⁶The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.” ⁷“And look: I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who holds

on to the words of the prophecy of this book.”⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I bowed down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and also with those who hold on to the words of this book. Worship God!” ¹⁰The angel also said to me: Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. ¹¹Let the one who is unjust continue to be unjust. Let the one who is filthy continue to be filthy. Let the one who is just continue to do what is just. Let the one who is holy continue to be holy. ¹²Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

The image displays the Greek letters Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω) in a large, bold, black serif font. The Alpha is on the left and the Omega is on the right, with a small gap between them. The letters are centered horizontally on the page.

Gospel Acclamation

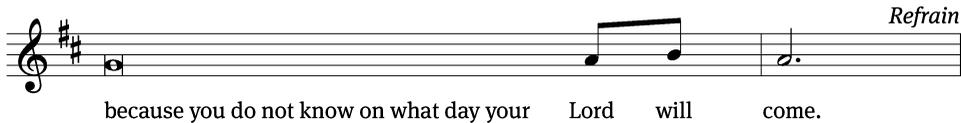
Matthew 24:42



Refrain



Tone



Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 717684

Gospel

Luke 12:35–40

³⁵“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. ³⁶Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷Blessed are those servants, whom the master will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸Even if he comes in the second or third watch, they will be blessed if he finds them alert. ³⁹But know this: If the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Children's Sermon: Please come forward during verse 3

Sermon: Luke 12:35-40

THE KING IS COMING!

I. We are ready when we serve Him

II. We are blessed when He serves us

As we rejoice that our King is coming, consider this quote from Augustine:
“Our Lord Jesus Christ both came to men, and went away from men, and is to come to men. And yet He was here when He came, nor did He depart when He went away, and He is to come to them to whom He said, ‘Lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world’ ”

Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). The Lutheran Study Bible (p. 1741). Concordia Publishing House

- Which part of the quote reminds us that our King is true man?
- Which part of the quote reminds us that our King is true God?

How can these words of Jesus encourage those who have been waiting a long time?

Stand

Apostles' Creed

CW 197

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

CW 198

Offering

559 If Your Beloved Son, O God

Non-Communion Ending

CW 171

850 It Is Well with My Soul

Acknowledgments

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