

Order of Service

Last Judgement Sunday

November 8, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH #101 vs. 1,2,4,5 *"The King Shall Come"*

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.**

**O brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.**

Invocation:

P: We worship in the name of the triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: (sung) Amen.

The Confession of Sin

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.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: (sung) Who made heav'n and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: (sung) And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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 for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

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

Collect (*Prayer for the Day*)

P: 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. We ask for this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

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Congregational Response: ELH 536 (*Tune ELH 519*)

**O Son of God, we wait for Thee,
We long for Thine appearing;
We know Thou sittest on the throne,
And we Thy name are bearing.
Who trusts in Thee, May joyful be,
And see Thee, Lord, descending
To bring us bliss unending.**

Psalm Reading: Psalm 90

P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

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

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

C: You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

P: You turn mortals back to dust. You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

C: The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

P: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

The Old Testament Lesson: Daniel 7:9, 10

(This dramatic courtroom scene depicts the eternal, majestic God, awesome in power and appearance, taking the judge's seat. The books of evidence are opened before him so that his enemies will be rightly judged.)

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)

Congregational Response: TLH 295 vs. 5, 6

**The Law is good; but since the Fall Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die And has no power to justify.**

**To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.**

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

(The day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. This calls for watchfulness and self-control, the breastplate of faith, and the helmet of salvation.)

1 Now, brothers, 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, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons 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 alert and self-controlled. 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 self-controlled, 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)

Congregational Response: ELH 253 vs. 1, 6

**Rise my soul, to watch and pray; From thy sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o'ertaken.
For the foe, Well we know, Oft his harvest reapeth
While the Christian sleepeth.**

**Therefore let us watch and pray, Knowing He will hear us
As we see from day to day Dangers ever near us,
And the end Doth impend – Our redemption neareth
When the Lord appeareth.**

The Apostles Creed:

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.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:31–46

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.”

Hymn: ELH 538 vs. 1,2,5,7 *“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”*

The day is surely drawing near
When God’s Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear As Judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease
When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teacheth.

A trumpet loud shall then resound
And all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found
Shall from their sleep awaken;
But all that live shall in that hour
By the Almighty’s boundless pow’r
Be changed at His commanding.

O Jesus, who my debt didst pay
And for my sin wast smitten;
Within the Book of Life, O may
My name be also written!
I will not doubt; I trust in thee,
From Satan Thou hast made me free
And from all condemnation.

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
Then hear us when we cry to Thee;
Come, mighty Judge, and make us free
From ev’ry evil! Amen.

Sermon: Daniel 7: 9-10 (see the Old Testament Lesson)

“The Heavenly Courtroom”

Hymn: ELH 534 vs. 1,2,7,14

“The World Is Very Evil”

**The world is very evil, The times are waxing late;
Be sober and keep vigil, The Judge is at the gate;
The Judge that comes in mercy,
The Judge that comes with might,
To terminate the evil, To diadem the right.**

**Arise, arise, good Christian, Let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow To heav’nly gladness lead
To light that hath no evening, That knows no moon nor sun,
The light so new and golden, The light that is but one.**

**Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blessed,
Beneath thy contemplation Sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not, What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.**

**O sweet and blessed country, The home of God’s elect!
O sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.**

Offering Prayer - Prayer of the Church

P: Almighty God and Father, we thank You for all Your goodness and tender mercies, especially for the gift of Your dear Son, through whom You have revealed your grace.

C: We pray that You would plant Your Word in our hearts that we may cling to it in faith and bear fruit in well doing.

P: We commend to Your care all who are in trouble, want, sickness or any other adversity. Comfort them, O God, with Your Holy Spirit.

C: O Lord, be with all who are in trouble. Hear their prayers and let them give to You the honor due Your name.

P: When the world persecutes us for believing in Your Son Jesus Christ, help us not to be dismayed.

C: When the world condemns us for our faith, help us to testify to the truth.

P: You have said: Whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

C: We praise Your name, O Lord, for You have done marvelous things to save us.

P: The Day of Judgment when your Son returns to this earth draws ever nearer.

C: Thank you for the gift of faith which has prepared us for Your return.

P: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let Your message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed truthfully to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend Your healing and Your hope before the Last Day.

(Special prayers and intercessions may follow.)

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring our private petitions to You.

(Silent prayer)

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power, and in Your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer: *(spoken by all)*

**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.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord turn to you in His favor and give you peace.

C: *(sung)* Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: ELH #160 vs. 1,4,6,8

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

**O God, Our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.**

**O God our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while life shall last
And our eternal Home!**