

+DIVINE SERVICE III+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR + 21 NOVEMBER 2021



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you. **To all of you who are visiting** our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. **If you are looking for a church home** and would like to know about our beliefs and practice, please see the pastor. He will be happy to visit with you at your convenience.

† Note From the Organist:

Donald Rotermund is Music Director Emeritus at Zion Lutheran Church in Dallas. He is much in demand as a clinician and recitalist, and has written many organ and choral pieces, including several pedagogic works. Here his setting captures the cheerful spirit of this Scandinavian tune.

David Chervign is Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and Director of the National Lutheran Choir. Here he gives us spirited treatment of this old English tune.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es, With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10

The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with | singing,
everlasting joy shall be up- | on their heads.
They shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,*
and sorrow and sighing shall | flee away.
O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;**

let me know how fleeting | I am!
Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing
be- | fore you.*

Surely all mankind stands as a | mere breath!
And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*

My hope | is in you.
Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

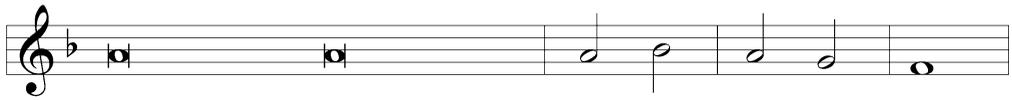
LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy 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,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



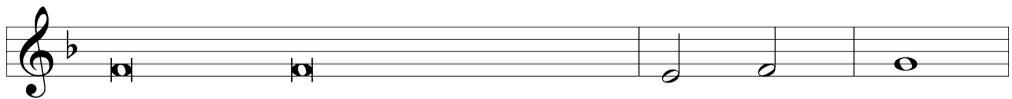
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

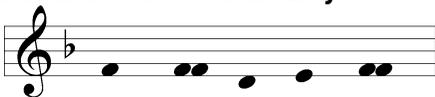


Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 65:17-25

- ¹⁷Behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered
or come into mind.
- ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
- ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.
- ²⁰No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,

or an old man who does not fill out his days,
 for the young man shall die a hundred years old,
 and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.
²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them;
 they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
²²They shall not build and another inhabit;
 they shall not plant and another eat;
 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
²³They shall not labor in vain
 or bear children for calamity,
 for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD,
 and their descendants with them.
²⁴Before they call I will answer;
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.
²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
 and dust shall be the serpent's food.
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain,"
 says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 149; antiphon: v. 2

Sing to the LORD a New Song

¹Praise the LORD!
 Sing to the LORD a | new song,*
 his praise in the assembly of the | godly!
²**Let Israel be glad in his | Maker;***
let the children of Zion rejoice | in their King!
³Let them praise his name with | dancing,*
 making melody to him with tambou- | rine and lyre!
⁴**For the LORD takes pleasure in his | people;***
he adorns the humble with sal- | vation.
⁵Let the godly exult in | glory;*
 let them sing for joy | on their beds.
⁶**Let the high praises of God be | in their throats***
and two-edged swords | in their hands,

⁷to execute vengeance on the | nations*
 and punishments on the | peoples,
⁸to bind their | kings with chains*
 and their nobles with fet- | ters of iron,
⁹to execute on them the judgment | written!*
 This is honor for all his godly ones. | Praise the LORD!

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life **✝** of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us



1 The Bride-groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed-ding feast."
2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re-deem-er's face;
3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,
4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum-ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.
The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:
From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,
With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more
The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;
From sick-ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,
While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!
A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.
And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.
A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Prayer of the Church

The proper response is "Hear our prayer."

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter His eternal wedding feast. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, our hope is in You. Grant all pastors and servants of Your Church to proclaim that hope in boldness and clarity. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** Grant to all Your baptized people diligence to watch for the Savior's appearing, that they may be prepared for that joyous day. Lord, in Your mercy,
 - P** King of the nations, hear our prayers for those who lead our country and all who serve in our military. Fill them with Your wisdom, and protect them in every danger. Lord, in Your mercy,
 - P** Lord God, You promise everlasting joy to Your people. Remember all in trying circumstances: the sick, the suffering, the dying, the mourning and others in need of prayer especially *Alice, Carmen, Cynthia, the Conrad's, Dalton, David, Debra, Faith, Gloria, James, Jamesetta, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Philip, Sabrina, and Susie*. Comfort them with Your divine promises, and grant Your healing peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
 - P** Giver of the feast, You provide a foretaste of the divine wedding banquet at Your Son's table. Grant repentance and faith to all who commune this day, that they may receive His body and blood in a worthy manner and show forth His praise in their lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
 - P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



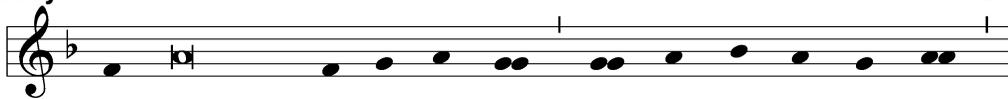
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196



P Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it



is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;



and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who



tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to



temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



■ A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



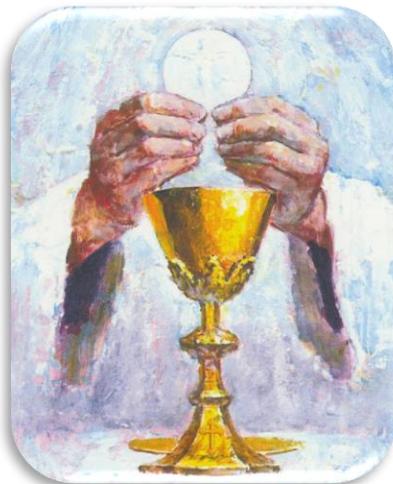
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution



Distribution Hymn

634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -
 2 He blot - ted out with His own blood The judg - ment
 3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a
 4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this



brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort
 that a - gainst us stood; For us He full a -
 sol - emn guar - an - tee: In this His ho - ly
 Sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,



in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
 tone - ment made, And all our debt He ful - ly paid.
 Sup - per here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
 as He said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

5 We dare not ask how this
 can be,
 But simply hold the mystery
 And trust this word where
 life begins:
 "Given and shed for all your
 sins."

6 They who this word do not
 believe
 This food unworthily receive,
 Salvation here will never
 find—
 May we this warning keep in
 mind!

7 But blest is each believing
 guest
 Who in these promises finds
 rest;
 For Jesus shall in love
 remain
 With all who here His grace
 obtain.

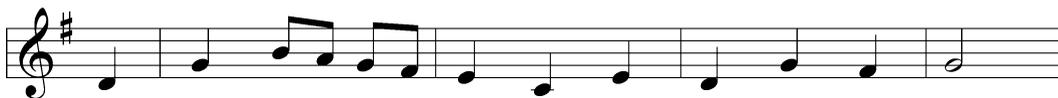
8 Help us sincerely to believe
 That we may worthily
 receive
 Your Supper and in You find
 rest.
 Amen! They who believe are
 blest.

Distribution Hymn

643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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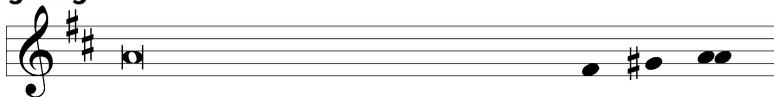
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Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



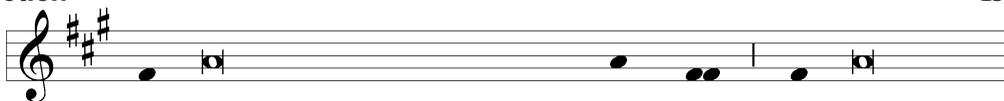
A Bless we the Lord.



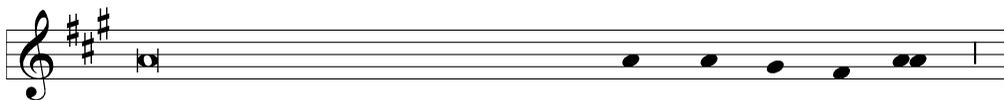
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

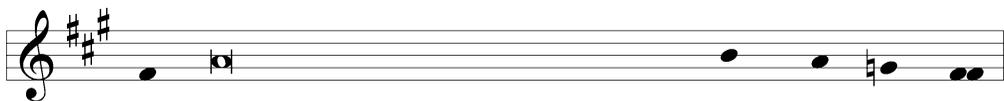
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart

509 Christ Is Surely Coming



1 Christ is sure - ly com - ing Bring - ing His re - ward,
2 See the ho - ly cit - y! There they en - ter in,
3 Grace be with God's peo - ple! Praise His ho - ly name!



Al - pha and O - me - ga, First and Last and Lord:
All by Christ made ho - ly, Washed from ev - 'ry sin:
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er - more the same;



Root and Stem of Da - vid, Brill - iant Morn - ing Star;
 Thirst - y ones, de - sir - ing All He loves to give,
 Hear the cer - tain prom - ise From the e - ter - nal home:



Meet your Judge and Sav - ior, Na - tions near and far!
 Come for liv - ing wa - ter, Free - ly drink, and live!
 "Sure - ly I come quick - ly! Come, Lord Je - sus, come!"

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Toccata on "The Ash Grove"

David Cherwien (b. 1958)

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✚ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✚

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 38

+ Voter's Assembly today, Nov. 1st following service. All members are encouraged to come and have a voice in the church!

+ Barbara's birthday was 11/20. Happy Birthday from your Good Shepherd family.

LWML Message

+ Food Ingathering for LSS: **The Good Shepherd LWML would like to invite the congregation to share their blessings this month of Thanksgiving** by bringing nonperishable food for Lutheran Social Services of So. Calif. Please put your food items in the box labeled "LSS Food Ingathering" in the narthex. Thank you for helping those in need.

Synod Sentences for the Last Sunday of the Church Year

By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return

"The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1-13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper,

and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17-25).

Lutheran For Life Thoughts for The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Our Savior considers human bodies so precious that He has already begun making a new earth for them to enjoy eternally (Isaiah 65:17-25). He has not designed humankind's bodily existence as disposable but as indispensable to our identity and abundant life. How shall this affect our approach to illness, disability, conception, and age?

Prayer: King of creation, increase our respect and protection for the bodies of others with the esteem You bestow upon our own. Amen.

A Prayer For The Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, make us watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that when He shall stand at the door and knock, He may find us not sleeping in carelessness and sin, but awake and rejoicing in His appearance; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

A Snippet From 1517

Preaching Hope: Theological Reflections on the Last Sundays of the Church Year

"...Hope is neither apathetic nor fanatical. It is marked by a particular sobriety, looking to the future while engaging the present. The Epistle for Pentecost 23 (II Thessalonians 3:1-13) with Paul's exhortation, that Christians are not to be given to idleness and if a man does not work he is not to eat, demonstrates hope is no excuse for lazy indifference to the things of the world. Once again, listen to Sasse:

"All the saints of God, all believers, share the hope that according to the wisdom of all nations belongs to the very nature of man, because man lives by hope (e.g., Ecclesiastes 9:4) and cannot live without hope. The hope of the sick for the restoration to health, the hope of the prisoner for freedom, the hope for social justice in a nation and for peace between the nations of the world, all these human hopes are common to Christians and non-Christians and no Christian should disassociate himself from the hopes of his fellow men, as long as these hopes are justified. It would be a grave violation of the great commandment to love our neighbor if we fail to understand these human hopes and if we refused our active participation in the lawful attempts to realize them under the pretext that there are higher things to hope for." [7]

Hope gives Christians the equilibrium to stand firmly in this world while waiting on the blessed Last Day without becoming intoxicated by dreams of Heaven whether in the hereafter or in some renewed society of ecological wholeness where peace and justice reign on this planet.

The Lord has given us a sure and certain promise: a hope which does not disappoint on account of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is in the midst of a world marked by empty and deceptive hopes that have broken hearts and lives that we are sent to deliver the promise of a future that has as its last chapter the resurrection of the body to eternal life with the Lamb who was slain but is alive forevermore..." *John T. Pless, 2019*