

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Introduction to the Day

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables  
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves and have  
treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,  
to welcome those you send,  
and to treasure mercy and justice.  
Turn us from our ways to your ways,  
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,  
forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake  
and remembers them no more.  
Lift up your heads and your hearts.  
Yours is the kingdom of God.  
**Amen.**

### Gathering Song "I Will Call Upon The Lord"

#### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, strengthen our trust in your promises, bring all the world to share in the treasures that come your Son, and bring us to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### Lesson – Hebrews 10:11-25

<sup>11</sup>Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," <sup>13</sup>and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [<sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

<sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup>he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Children's Message

### **Gospel – Mark 13:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

### **Message**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

At first hearing, the Good News for this day can be a bit terrifying.

Jesus and the disciples come out of the temple and the disciples are admiring the beauty of the place. “Look at these stones! What large buildings!”

“Ahh yes. And you know what? Not one of these stones will be left unturned, and the temple will fall. Beautiful, isn't it?”

Jesus would go on to seemingly offer a warning of the end times. Well, it actually seems like he was ready to leave his comments alone when the disciples push him a little more.

“When are these things going to happen? How will we know they are about to take place?”

And the warning seems to get worse, especially for us here and now.

“You will see much fighting. There will be people who proclaim to be my messengers, but they will lead you astray. Watch out for them. The wars that are to happen are supposed to happen. They are a must. The end is still to come. Nations will rise against each other. Natural disasters will be everywhere, and people will be hungry. And here is the best part, this is just the beginning.”

That's a real pick-me-up from Jesus right there.

Jesus describes a scene that for so many years has been all too familiar. Yet, every time any one of the things that Jesus mentions takes place, we treat it as though it had never occurred before and is surely a sign of the end of times.

Disclaimer: I do not know when Christ will return and the world will end. That is not knowledge that is given when one becomes a pastor. In fact, no one knows. Anyone who tells you that they do know are the very ones that Jesus warns us about who are here to lead you astray.

So, then, what do we know?

We know what we believe to be true. The same promises that the writer of the letter to the Hebrews believed to be true. And, we have a choice. We can throw our hands up and point to the world around us aware of the fact that it is seemingly worse than what Jesus warned us about, OR, we can live into the promises that we have all been given.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews speaks of hope, confidence, and assurance of the things we know. “<sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

As people of faith, washed in the waters of baptism, we are to approach the things of this life with confidence in the presence of our creator, redeemer, and sustainer who is with us through it.

Our Hebrews text goes on from that!

“<sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.”

Provoke one another to love and good deeds. Don't neglect to be together, as you feel safe doing. Encourage one another.

If this is indeed the end times (again, I do not believe it is but also wouldn't actually know that it is) would it do us well to worry? If it is indeed the end times, does our call to care for one another and love God with every fiber of our being change? If we think it does, and the end times causes us to only worry about ourselves, what happens when we are wrong? There isn't a reset.

The call of God's people, then, now, and always is to care for one another, put others first, and love God with every fiber of our being. War, famine, earthquakes, and whatever other sign you can think of don't change that, they make it all that much more important.

Thanks be to God. Amen

**Song of the Day**                      **“Thy Word”**

**Apostle's Creed**

**Prayers**

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change, protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters. Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved. Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray (*especially Peyton, Kathy Smith, Matt Miller, Bob Hodges, Bob Kries, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Bill and Bonnie Kuehn, Steve Bradford, David Gunderson, Cassie Skinner, Keith Franson*).. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

### **Offertory Prayer**

Holy God,  
the earth is yours and everything in it,  
yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.  
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,  
and strengthen us to be your body for the world  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.**

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, “This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, “this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me.”

Once you’ve taken the elements say, “Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**”

## **Lord’s Prayer**

### **Communion Prayer**

**Sending Song**                    **“And All the People Said Amen”**

### **Blessing**

God, the beginning and the end,  
who has written your name in the book of life,  
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace  
from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

Led on by the saints before us,  
go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements**

As you heard a little bit during worship on Sunday, during the month of November we are going to be expressing our Gratitude and sharing stories of Generosity.

One of the ways that we will do that is with the Gratitude Pumpkin. As you come into worship you will find a pumpkin in the center aisle. You are invited to write whatever it is that you are grateful for on the pumpkin. If getting to worship is a hurdle for you, let us know what you are grateful for and we will put it on the pumpkin for you!

Throughout the rest of the month we will be hearing more stories of GENEROSITY and taking moments to express our GRATITUDE!

With 60 quilts delivered to our partners at Roosevelt Elementary in the last week, there was a gaping hole in the quilt supply. Fear not, the quilters were working diligently to restock!

In this month of Gratitude and Generosity, we are grateful for the generosity of our quilters!

### **Last call for this Saver's run**

If you have any bags to drop off for the Saver's Fundraiser, get them to church by Nov. 17.

**The Stand in the Light Memory Choir concert** is Thursday, Nov. 18. You will need to tune in to YouTube to hear and see the concert this year. You can search for the group when you go to YouTube.com. The group has been in the sanctuary as well as some by Zoom. It will be fun to see them back together again.