



LAST JUDGMENT SUNDAY:

November 5, 2023



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this week

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time in between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. The Church prays, "Lord God, keep us every watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven."

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Josiah Kroll, Art Kutschied
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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Prayer Requests: prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com
text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal ear-buds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



SERVICE OF THE WORD

488 *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*

CW 488 sts. 1-3



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near when Je - sus, God's a -
2 A trum - pet loud shall then re - sound and all the earth be
3 A book is o - pened then to all, a rec - ord tru - ly



point - ed, shall with great maj - es - ty ap - pear as judge of
shak - en. Then all who in their graves are found shall from their
tell - ing what each has done, both great and small, when they on



all ap - point - ed. All mirth and laugh - ter then shall cease when
sleep a - wak - en and with the liv - ing in that hour, by
earth were dwell - ing, and ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, and



flames on flames will still in - crease, as Scrip - ture tru - ly teach - es.
God's al - might - y, bound - less pow'r, be changed at his com - mand - ing.
all be known as they have been in thoughts and words and ac - tions.

Text: tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832-1919, alt.; Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532-1599, abr.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

We gather in God's House on this Last Judgment Sunday in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

We recognize God as the perfect and holy Judge of all mankind. We acknowledge His righteous demands that we be holy as He is holy. And we admit that we are all guilty sinners. We too, by our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions, have contributed to the pain and misery we see all around us. And so, we confess our sins before God:

I confess that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. My heart wrestles with pride, selfishness, and rebellion. I often experience sinful thoughts and desires. I often speak and act in ways that hurt and offend you and others. I have not made proper use of the time you have given us before the Great Judgment.

I know that nothing I do or say can earn forgiveness.

But I also know you are a loving and gracious God. You sent your Son to personally bear my sin on the cross. I come to you and lay the burden of my sin at the cross.

My heartfelt plea is that the blood of Jesus would cleanse me of my sin and set me free.

Silence for meditation and reflection upon the sins that trouble us . . .

It is my joy and privilege to announce to you that the Lord has taken all your sins and laid them on Jesus. He was condemned in your place.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Because of Christ's death you are forgiven. Because of his resurrection to life God declares you "not guilty." You are set free from sin to live for God here, and forever with him in heaven. Your Savior paid the debt you owe, and Satan cannot threaten you – there is no condemnation for those who trust in Him!

Amen. We are ready for His glorious return. Lord keep us in a constant state of readiness until that Day arrives. Amen.

488 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

CW 488 sts. 5–6

5 My Sav - ior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was
6 O Je - sus Christ, do not de - lay, but has - ten our sal -
smit - ten; with - in the Book of Life I know my name has
va - tion; we of - ten trem - ble on our way in fear and
now been writ - ten. I will not doubt, for I am free, and
trib - u - la - tion. Your saints are wait - ing pa - tient - ly; come
Sa - tan can - not threat - en me; there is no con - dem - na - tion!
soon, Re - deem - er, make us free from ev - 'ry e - vil. A - men.

Text: tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.; Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–1599, abr.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

THE WORD

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

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.

¹⁰A 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.

¹³In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

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

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

Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:

In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.

Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

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

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will

come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷For 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. ⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive 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 in fact you are doing.

Gospel Acclamation 890 Jerusalem the Golden

CW 890 st. 1

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest—
the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.
Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–1895
Text and tune: Public domain

¹“At 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. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," the watch-men on the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her heart with
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 joy is spring - ing; she wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 sing be - fore you with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.



Mid-night hears the wel-come voic - es and at the thrill-ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, the strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin-ing por - tal, where, dwell-ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are all you vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; her star is ris'n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad-ness take!
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Christ Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No vi - sion ev - er brought, no ear has ev - er caught



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care your-selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all the mar - riage hall
 such great glo - ry; there - fore will we in vic - to - ry



to meet the Bride-groom, who is near.”
to eat the Sup - per at your call.
sing hymns of praise e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 *“How are you going to approach your day in Court?”*

884 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

CW 884



Lord, when your glo - ry I shall see and taste your king-dom's



plea - sure, your blood my roy - al robe shall be, my



joy be - yond all mea - sure! When I ap - pear be - fore your



throne, your right - eous - ness shall be my crown; with



these I need not hide me. And there, in gar - ments rich - ly

wrought, as your own bride I shall be brought, to
stand in joy be - side in you.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

Text: Public domain

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Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. We long for the Day when you will come again and bring eternal justice to all mankind.

We praise you for sending Jesus to purge us from all evil and make us righteous in your sight. Without Him we would not be able to stand before you. But in Christ we are innocent and will be found “not guilty” on that incredible day. Continue to be with us, to bless what we do in your name, to pick us up when we fall, to keep us on the narrow road, and to always hold us in your powerful arms.

As we get ever closer to the End of all things, we pray for the lost (*moment of silence to pray for lost souls we know and love*) we pray for our culture – to slow the spread of Satan’s lies and the damage they cause (*moment of silence*) we pray for the Gospel to spread and bear fruit here and globally (*moment of silence to pray for mission work*) we pray for our country and upcoming elections; that you would bless them, bless the elected leaders you put in authority above us, thwart all those who seek to interfere and manipulate the vote through devious means. We also bring you, Lord, all those personal concerns and the people that weigh upon our hearts and minds (*moment of silence for personal prayers.*) Hear us Lord, for Jesus’ sake. **We know tough times are ahead, for you warned us of that. Yet at the same time we have peace, joy, and optimism – for we know how everything will end, and we know that we are innocent champions in the blood of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. We stand with Him.**

We also then join in the prayer that the Son of Man has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

885 *There Is a Higher Throne*

CW 885



1 There is a high - er throne than all this world has known,
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be - fore the throne;



where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue will one day come.
we'll hon - or him in per - fect song where we be - long.

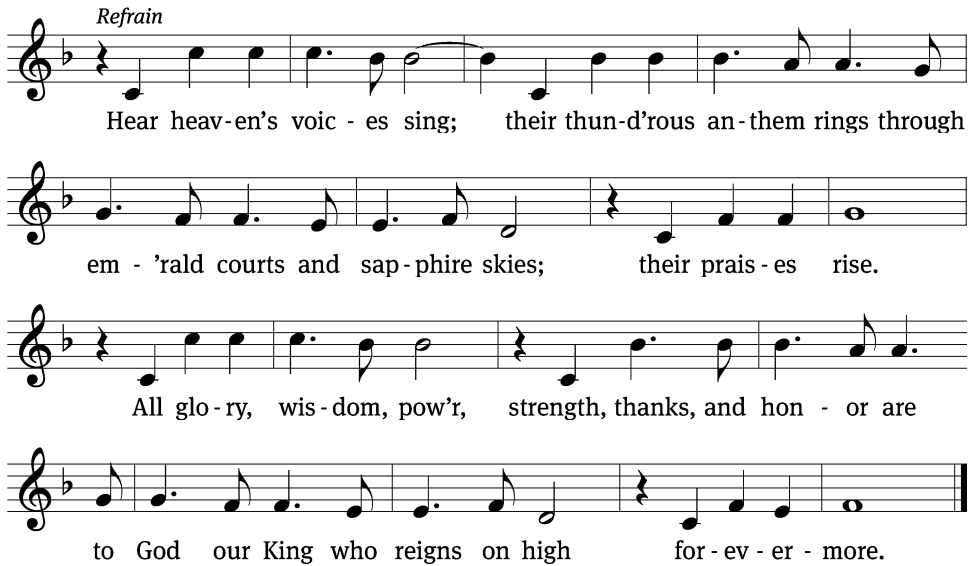


Be - fore the Son we'll stand, made fault-less through the Lamb;
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hun - ger die;



be - liev - ing hearts find prom - ised grace; sal - va - tion comes.
the Lamb be - comes our Shep - herd - King; we'll reign with him.

Refrain



Hear heav-en's voic - es sing; their thun-d'rous an-them rings through
 em - 'rald courts and sap - phire skies; their prais - es rise.
 All glo - ry, wis - dom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and hon - or are
 to God our King who reigns on high for - ev - er - more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Meeting

Council will gather following worship today in the fellowship hall.
 The Ladies of grace will meet next Sunday after worship.

Outreach Event

We have scheduled our ***Crusade for the Chili Crown*** on November 18th. We need food pantry donations. Popular items are mac-n-cheese, fully prepared microwavable dishes, canned veggies and boxes of cereals. Please bring your donations and place them into the storage room off of the fellowship hall.

We will invite the public to enter the chili cookoff, but Grace members are also welcome to sign up and compete. As always, pray that God will richly bless us with a strong turnout and opportunities to share the reason for our faith in Jesus.

Bible Classes

Please take advantage of the Bible Classes now offered at Grace: Sunday morning 9 am / Wednesday afternoon 3 pm / the last Friday of the month at 10:30 am. Talk to pastor if you'd like to join in one of the current BIC courses as well.

Pastor is planning to start a new Bible class on **Revelation** to be held Thursdays at 6:00 pm. We're going to take a few weeks to promote it in our community and hopefully get some visitors to attend. We (at this point) plan to begin the class on the last Thursday of the month, November 30 (the week after Thanksgiving).

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Today	11:00 am	Council meeting
Nov. 7	all day	Pastor at Circuit meetings in DFW
Nov. 8	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Study
Nov. 12	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Nov. 12	11:00 am	Ladies of Grace
Nov. 15	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Study
Nov. 16	10:00 am	Mornings with Mommy
Nov. 19	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Thanksgiving Worship

Financial Update

Stewardship (as of October 29, 2023):

General Fund Offerings: \$113,445.11

Cumulative Budget Requirements: \$124,511.70

Budgeted Balance -\$11,066.59

Actual Funds (as of October 29, 2023) :

Alliance Bal: \$5,079.16

General Fund: \$4,916.85

Other Funds: *(still being determined)*

Pilgrim Bal: \$34,257.16 *(note that this balance is below what should be in school fund)*

School Fund: \$34,458.61 (\$38,760.00 donated, \$4301.39 expensed)

Investment: \$TBD