



Trinity Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Rev. Andrew Preus – Pastor
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Second to Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 19th -- anno Domini 2023

The coming judgment of Christ is not a mythical story detached from world history. No, it is the very end of world history. Daniel describes four beasts, which represent four kingdoms. All of these kingdoms played pivotal roles in setting the scene for when Jesus would be born and when he would die. If the second beast, the Persians, had not taken over the first beast, the Babylonians, then there would not have been a Cyrus to send a remnant of Judah back to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple, and the Savior of the world would not have been born in Bethlehem. If the third beast, the Kingdom of Alexander the Great, would not have taken over the Persians, then the western world would not have had a common Greek language, and the New Testament, which was written in Greek, would not have spread as well as it did. If the Romans, the fourth beast, would not have taken over the Greek empires then there would not have been a decree by Caesar Augustus for the world to be registered, and there would have been no journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. There would have been no Pontius Pilate, no crucifixion, and therefore no salvation for the world.

I suppose one might argue that God could have brought all this about in another way. But that is beside the point. The point is that God was behind every action in history in order to bring about our salvation, in order to give up his only begotten Son to die for our sins. But here we find in Daniel's prophecy that not only has God worked all things out for his Son to be born in the flesh and die for our sins, he is still working everything out so that we who are written in the book of life would finally be rescued from this wicked world. All evil forces of the Antichrist promoting violence, deceit, and especially false doctrine, though they are prolonged for a season and a time, will finally have their dominion taken away. The Author of history has already determined it. As surely as the Son of Man has received all dominion from the Ancient of Days, both from eternity and in his first coming by his death and resurrection, he will certainly claim it for all to see when he comes to take us, his prized possession, home.

DEAR VISITORS: As a congregation in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Trinity practices **closed communion**, which means that we only commune those who are members in good standing of sister congregations and have been instructed in the Christian faith as it is summarized in Luther's Small Catechism. If you are a visitor and desire to commune at Trinity, **please speak to Pastor Preus before the service.**

The Order of Morning Service

TLH p. 5

Hymn of Invocation ∞ *Lo, Many Shall Come from the East and the West* TLH #415
Stand for final stanza

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

pg. 5

Please remain standing through the conclusion of the Collect of the Day.

Service of the Word

Introit

Save me, O God, | by Your name,*
and vindicate me | by Your strength.

Hear my | prayer, O God;*

give ear to the words | of my mouth. (*Psalm 54:1-2*)

For strangers have risen up a- | gainst me;*
they have not set God be- | fore them.

Behold, God is my | helper;*

the Lord is with those who up- | hold my life.

He will repay my enemies for their | evil.*
Cut them off | in Your truth.

He has delivered me out of all | trouble,*

and my eye has seen its desire upon my | enemies. (*Psalm 54:3-5, 7*)



Gloria Patri ∞ *Glory be to the Father*

pg. 6

Kyrie ∞ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Gloria in Excelsis ∞ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Salutation & Collect of the Day

Sit

Old Testament Reading - *Daniel 7:9-14*

⁹"I was watching until thrones were placed and the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothes were as white as snow and the hair on His head like pure wool. His throne was fiery flames and its wheels a blazing fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire flowed, coming from Him. Thousands upon thousands served Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹¹"I was watching then because the horn had said such proud things. I kept watching until the animal was killed and its body destroyed and handed over to be burned in fire. ¹²As for the rest of the animals, their power to rule was taken away, but they were allowed to live longer for a season and a time.

¹³"In the visions during the night I saw One coming with the clouds of the heavens like the Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. ¹⁴And He was given glory, power to rule, and a kingdom, so that all peoples, nations, and those of every language should serve Him. His

authority is everlasting and will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

He shall call to the heavens / from above,*
and to the earth, that He may judge His / people.

**Let the heavens declare His / righteousness,*
for God Him- / self is Judge.** (Psalm 50:4, 6)



Epistle - 2 Peter 3:3-14

³First of all you should know that in the last days mockers, following their own desires, will come mocking: ⁴"He promised to come. What has happened? From the time the fathers fell asleep everything has stayed as it was since the world was first created." ⁵They deliberately forget that long ago God's Word made the sky and formed the earth out of water and with water. ⁶Then this water also flooded the world and destroyed it. ⁷And the same Word has preserved the present heavens and the earth for the fire and keeps them for the day when the ungodly will be judged and destroyed.

⁸Don't forget, dear friends, with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord isn't slow to do what He promised, as some people think. He is patient with you and doesn't want any to perish but wants them all to come to repentance.

¹⁰The Lord's day will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be destroyed by heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, think how holy and godly you should live, ¹²waiting for and earnestly desiring the coming of God's day that will destroy the heavens with fire and melt the elements with heat. ¹³But according to His promise we expect new heavens and a new earth where righteousness lives. ¹⁴With this to look forward to, dear friends, do your best to have Him find you without a spot or blemish and at peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse

Alle- / luia.*

Alle- / luia.

**The ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with / singing,*
with everlasting joy on their heads.**

They shall obtain joy and gladness. Alle- / luia. (Isaiah 35:10)



Triple Alleluia

Gospel - *Matthew 25:31-46*

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

³¹"When the Son of man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His throne of glory. ³²And all nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and He will have the sheep stand at His right but the goats at His left. ³⁴"Then the King will say to those at His right, 'Come, you whom My Father blessed, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time the world was made. ³⁵I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me into your homes; ³⁶naked, and you gave Me something to wear; sick, and you looked after Me; in prison, and you visited Me.'

³⁷"Then the righteous will ask Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You a drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You into our homes, or naked and give You something to wear? ³⁹When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?'

⁴⁰"And the King will answer them, 'I tell you the truth, anything you did for one of My brothers here, however humble, you did for Me.' ⁴¹"Then He will say to those at His left, 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; thirsty, and you didn't give Me a drink; ⁴³a stranger, and you didn't take Me into your homes; naked, and you didn't give Me anything to wear; sick and in prison, and you didn't look after Me.' ⁴⁴"Then they, too, will ask, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't help You?' ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, 'I tell you the truth, anything you didn't do for one of these, however humble, you didn't do for Me.' ⁴⁶Then these will go away to everlasting punishment, but the righteous to everlasting life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ**

Apostles' Creed

pg. 12

Sit

Hymn of the Day *☞ The Day is Surely Drawing Near*

TLH #611

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

pg. 12

Sit

Gathering of the Offering

Stand to sing as the offerings are brought forward

*We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

Please complete the
Record of Fellowship in the
folder in your pew.

Catechism Recitation

P What do you believe according to these words?

C I believe that, when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, especially when they exclude manifest and impenitent sinners from the Christian congregation, and, again, when they absolve those who repent of their sins and are willing to amend, this is as valid and certain, in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself

General Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn ∞ *For Me to Live Is Jesus*

pg. 14
TLH #597

Concluding Collect

Benediction

Sit

Hymn to Depart ∞ *Jerusalem the Golden*

TLH #613

Silent Prayer

Ushers for today:

James Eads, Joseph Rethemeyer, Kyle Scheer

Next week:

Peter Otten, Jon Finck, Michael McFerrin, Andrew Rethemeyer

Greeter for today:

Rick Tritch

Next Week:

Acolyte today:

Jacob Preus

Thanksgiving Eve:

Oscar Otten

Next Week:

Alton Swann

Flower and Altar Care: November: Ruth Rethemeyer & Jennifer Trsek

Prayer and Petitions: Rochelle Howard and family whose grandmother passed away recently. Homebound: Ray and LeeAnn Rohling, Diana Scheer, Paul & Sue Laune; Missionaries: Pastor James May and Pastor Harold Ristau (missionaries to Africa); Rev. David Preus (missionary to Romania); Michael & Naomi Erslund, Lutheran Bible Translators, Ghana. Luke Otten, Seminarian. Immanuel Lutheran School, Washington; Camp Trinity; Luther Classical College; St. Paul High School, Concordia, MO.

Birthdays and Anniversaries: Leah Preus, 20th, Aaron Swann, 21st, Ramona Ruediger, 21st

(Please email office@trinitynewhaven.com if your birthday or anniversary has not been listed or was incorrectly listed, so the records can be updated with correct information)

Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 23rd.

Midweek Advent Services begin December 6th (7:00 pm)

Needed – Sunday School teachers. Please speak with Peter Otten or Pastor Preus if you would be able to help.

Choir: Rehearsal for Christmas will begin after church service on December 3rd.

We are again providing **Christmas gifts** for the **Pregnancy Assistance Center**. If you wish to participate, please take an ornament from the wreath in the narthex. Return unwrapped gift along with the tag by December 10th. Thank you for your help.

Poinsettias are now being sold for the Ladies Aid to decorate the Church Chancel during Advent and Christmas. **See the bulletin insert to place your order.** They will be ordering 6 Red and 2 White. If you would like to purchase one, please fill out the insert and give it to Ladies Aid President Devin Eads or Treasurer Carolyn Scheer. The poinsettias are \$10 a piece and will be delivered the second week of December. Please place your order by December 3rd.

Ladies Aid has **Christmas cards** available for purchase located in back of church. \$5.00 a box.

Church decorating for Christmas at Trinity – Saturday, December 2nd. Meet at 9:00 am for Youth and any adults that would like to help.

Christmas decorations: If anyone needs Christmas tree decorations, Lisa Scheer has some for free. Please contact Lisa or if you know of someone in need please give them her name. White, crystal, plastic suitable for any décor.

Monthly Washington Circuit Youth Gathering this evening. Any and all youth (middle school-high school) are welcome. It will be **6-8 p.m. at Camp Trinity**. They will continue their book study of *A Martyr's Faith in a Faithless World*, along with games, food and fun.

Youth Save the Date: Annual Washington Circuit Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Trinity, New Haven, MO, **December 29th and 30th**. Registration details coming soon.

Confirmation/Wednesday School - All grade school age children welcome. Starting at 3:00 p.m. **Please note the sign-up sheet** in back for bringing snacks for the children. Drinks are provided.

Our Ladies are invited to Advent by Candlelight at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November 26, 5:00 p.m. Church will be open all afternoon to set up table. Decorate table and invite 7 others to sit with you. Provide a dessert or whatever you choose to snack on for the evening. Please contact Nancy Shockley to let her know how many will be attending (314)602-5262.

Business Manager Job Opening St. Paul Lutheran Church is now accepting resumes for the position of Business Manager. Requirements: 3-5 years accounting experience or accounting degree. Able to work with accounting software programs such as Shepherd's Staff or equivalent. Ability to make and maintain reports. This will be a part-time position, with hours ranging from six to ten hours per week depending on candidate's experience and ability. You may submit your resume to the church office or by email to secretarystpaulHP@outlook.com

Sue Steele

Office Secretary

Union, MO 63084

636-583-2209

www.inunionwithchrist.org

The Large Catechism ***The Lord's Prayer***

The Sixth Petition.

109 Therefore we Christians must be armed and daily expect to be incessantly attacked, in order that no one may go on in security and heedlessly, as though the devil were far from us, but at all times expect and parry his blows. For though I am now chaste, patient, kind, and in firm faith, the devil will this very hour send such an arrow into my heart that I can scarcely stand. For he is an enemy that never desists nor becomes tired, so that when one temptation ceases, there always arise others and fresh ones.

110 Accordingly, there is no help or comfort except to run hither and to take hold of the Lord's Prayer, and thus speak to God from the heart: Dear Father, Thou hast bidden me pray; let me not relapse because of temptations. Then you will see that they must desist, and finally acknowledge themselves conquered. 111 Else if you venture to help yourself by your own thoughts and counsel, you will only make the matter worse and give the devil more space. For he has a serpent's head, which if it gain an opening into which he can slip, the whole body will follow without check. But prayer can prevent him and drive him back.

(continued next week)