



THE TIME

IN BETWEEN

IS A TIME FOR WATCHFULNESS

END TIMES – LAST JUDGMENT

November 12, 2023

Grace Lutheran Church

THE TIME

IN BETWEEN

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Jesus Christ came to our world to win our salvation; and the second time when He will come to make all things new. We live in the time between those two points (sometimes referred to as the End Times) and while we have peace in Jesus in our hearts, it is a time of tension and trouble in our world. As the church year draws to a close over the next few weeks, the Bible encourages us to watch and wait and live in the time in between.

Today, God's Word directs our eyes the last day, Judgment Day, and calls us to be watchful.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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*Grace Lutheran Church
is a member of the
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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L. 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.

C: Holy and merciful Father, We come to you today knowing that we are by nature sinful and that we have disobeyed you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have done what is evil and often fail to do what is good. For this we deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But being sorry for our sins, trusting in our Savior Jesus Christ, we pray: Lord, have mercy on us.

Amen

L. God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:1-6

¹Awake, awake, Zion,
 clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
 Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
 will not enter you again.

²Shake off your dust;
 rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
 Daughter Zion, now a captive.

³For this is what the LORD says:
“You were sold for nothing,
 and without money you will be redeemed.

ARMED AND READY

⁴For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

⁵“And now what do I have here?” declares the LORD.

“For my people have been taken away for nothing,
and those who rule them mock,” declares the LORD.

“And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.

⁶Therefore my people will know my name;
therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

THE PSALM

Psalm 90

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, 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.

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.

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

⁷“Then 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.’

¹⁰“But 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.

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

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

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

After the Gospel.

L. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise be to you, O Christ.

SERMON – based on [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#) *(printed out on p.5)*

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Along with a prayer for those who have served our country on this Veterans' Day weekend, we pray for the people of God's Church and His world:

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.

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.