



**IS A TIME FOR YEARNING**

END TIMES – LAST SUNDAY

November 19, 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, the Bible encourages us to watch and wait and live in the time in between.

Today, God's Word helps us deal with death and yearn for life forever with our Lord and Savior.

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## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace*

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*Grace Lutheran Church*



## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L. God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C. Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

### **Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

<sup>9</sup>“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.

<sup>10</sup>A 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.

<sup>13</sup>"In 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. <sup>14</sup>He 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

## THE PSALM

## Psalm 95

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Revelation 22:13*

Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup>"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup>"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup>"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup>“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

<sup>45</sup>“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup>“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

*After the Gospel.*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Be Still My Soul

**The Time in Between...  
Is time to yearn to be caught up together**

## SERMON – based on **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup> According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## OFFERING

## 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**

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.

**Amen.**

**Thanksgiving  
Worship Service**

