



Last Judgment

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

November 8, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

- **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women's bathroom.

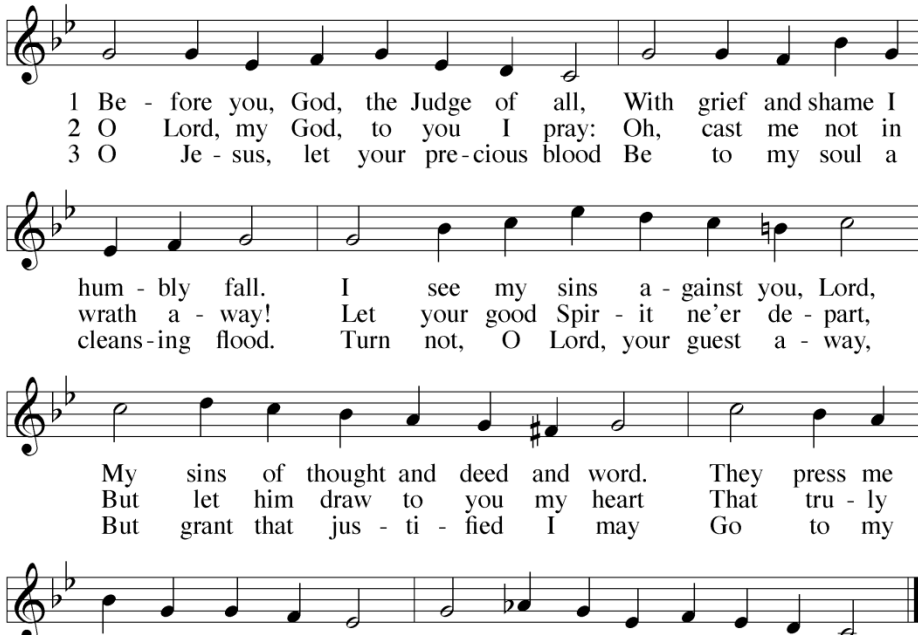
THE SEASON OF END TIME

The Church Year comes to a close in November with the season of End Times. In this season, we are reminded that we are living in the "last days" between Christ's first coming at Christmas and his second coming on Judgment Day. Today focuses on The Last Judgment; next week, The Saints Triumphant; and, lastly Christ the King Sunday, whose Kingdom will last forever.

Lord, keep us mindful of the Judgment! He will come to judge the living and the dead. We confess it every Sunday, but often live like those are empty words. Moses' psalm on the mortality of man shakes us from our spiritual slumber. Number your days aright and gain a heart of wisdom! Today the Church prays that God keep us ever mindful of the Last Judgment that we might be found in faith, fruitful in both word and deed. Then there's no need to fear Judgment Day; rather, we can look forward to the day of our redemption.

OPENING HYMN

306 Before You, God, the Judge of All



1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a
hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,
My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my
sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

INVOCATION

M: 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.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting

**in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.
Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

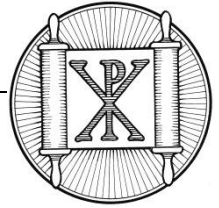
M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The Service of the Word



Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The **Collect** (also known as the “Prayer of the Day”) is a concise prayer which “collects” the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 1:7-16

Zephaniah speaks of the urgency of repentance before judgment of the LORD against disobedient people.

⁷ Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is near.

Indeed, the LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

⁸ On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice
I will punish the officials, the king’s sons,
and all who are dressed in foreign clothing.

⁹ On that day I will punish
all who skip over the threshold,^[a]
who fill their master’s house
with violence and deceit.

¹⁰ On that day—
this is the LORD’s declaration—
there will be an outcry from the Fish Gate,
a wailing from the Second District,
and a loud crashing from the hills.

¹¹ Wail, you residents of the Hollow,^[b]

for all the merchants^[a] will be silenced;
all those loaded with silver will be cut off.

¹² And at that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who settle down comfortably,^[a]
who say to themselves:

'The LORD will do nothing—good or bad.

¹³ Their wealth will become plunder
and their houses a ruin.

They will build houses but never live in them,
plant vineyards but never drink their wine.

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near,
near and rapidly approaching.

Listen, the day of the LORD—
then the warrior's cry is bitter.

¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath,
a day of trouble and distress,
a day of destruction and desolation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and total darkness,

¹⁶ a day of ram's horn and battle cry
against the fortified cities,
and against the high corner towers.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 90

Moses points out the brevity of life.

Refrain



In ev - 'ry age, O Lord, you have been our ref - uge.

Psalm tone



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

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
For a thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
You turn mortals back to dust.
You sweep them away in the sleep of death.
The length of our days is seventy years –
or eighty, if we have the strength;
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Refrain

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul also highlights the approaching end but he also emphasizes the good news of salvation. Live faithfully as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation.

5 About the times and the seasons: Brothers and sisters, you do not need anything to be written to you. **2** For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. **3** When they say, “Peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **4** But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the dark, for this day to surprise you like a thief. **5** For you are all children of light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. **6** So then, let us not sleep, like the rest, but let us stay awake and be self-controlled. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled and put on the armor of faith and love, and a helmet of the hope of salvation. **9** For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who

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 as you are already doing.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 24:42

Alleluia. Watch, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus will separate believers from unbelievers when he returns on the Last Day. Fruits of love for Christ can be seen in the compassion believers have for Christ's brothers. Faithlessness is evidenced by the unbelievers' willingness to let Christ's brother linger in his misery

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels^[a] with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations^[b] will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

³⁵“‘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 took me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you?’ ³⁹ When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!’ ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in; I was naked and you didn’t clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they too will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help you?’

⁴⁵ “Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

209 Day of Wrath, Oh, Day of Mourning

209

Day of Wrath, Oh, Day of Mourning



1 Day of wrath, oh, day of mourn - ing!
 2 Death is struck and na - ture quak - ing;
 3 See, the book, ex - act - ly word - ed,
 4 What shall I in awe be plead - ing,
 5 King of maj - es - ty tre - men - dous,



See ful - filled the proph - ets' warn - ing:
 All cre - a - tion is a - wak - ing,
 Where - in all has been re - cord - ed—
 Who for me be in - ter - ced - ing
 Who does free sal - va - tion send us,



Heav'n and earth in ash - es burn - ing.
 To its judge an an - swer mak - ing.
 Thus shall judg - ment be a - ward - ed.
 When your mer - cy I am need - ing?
 Fount of pi - ty, then be - friend us.

6 Think, good Jesus—my salvation 7 On the cross your dying spared me;
 Caused your wondrous incarnation, Just and righteous you declared me;
 Made you suffer my damnation! I await the joy prepared me.

Text: attr. Thomas de Celano, c. 1190–c. 1260, abr., st. 1-6; Mark A. Jeske, b. 1952, st. 7; tr. William J. Irons, 1812–83,
 st. 1-6, alt.

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Tune: DIES IRAE (888) Latin melody, 13th century.

SERMON

Zephaniah 1:7-16

Silence is Golden

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

2 Cor. 6:18
Is. 51:13

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.

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18
Lk. 1:35
Lk. 1:34; 2:7
Lk. 23:16
Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47
Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42
1 Pet. 3:19
1 Cor. 15:4b
Ac. 2:33-34
Heb. 1:13
Mt. 25:31
2 Tim. 4:1

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.

Mt. 3:16-17
Eph. 5:23
Eph. 4:3-6
Rom. 4:6-8
1 Cor. 15:13-19
1 Th. 4:17

Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith just preached. The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of our faith.

Be seated

OFFERING

Of all the gifts God gives to us, forgiveness in Jesus Christ is the most precious. No gift we could give back to God for what he did through his Son Jesus Christ could ever balance the debt we owe for what our Lord accomplished for us on the cross. Yet Jesus says the debt we owe has been canceled, that means that we do not give out of obligation but as an act of worship and thanks to God. The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

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.

HYMN

776 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

776

Sing With All the Saints in Glory



1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry;
 2 Oh, what glo - ry far ex - ceed - ing
 3 Life e - ter - nal! Heav'n re - joic - es:



Sing the res - ur - rec - tion song!
 All that eye has yet per - ceived!
 Je - sus lives who once was dead.



Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
 Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing
 Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!



To the for - mer days be - long.
 Nev - er that full joy con - ceived.
 Child of God, lift up your head!



All a - round the clouds are break - ing.
 God has prom - ised, Christ pre - pares it,
 Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won - ders



Soon the storms of time shall cease.
 There on high our wel - come waits.
 Crowd on faith, what joy un - known,



In God's like - ness we a - wak - en,
 Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it.
 When a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
 Christ has passed th' e - ter - nal gates.
 Saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and
bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:22-27

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

M: 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.

*The **blessing** of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on them, and I will bless them."*



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

728 Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



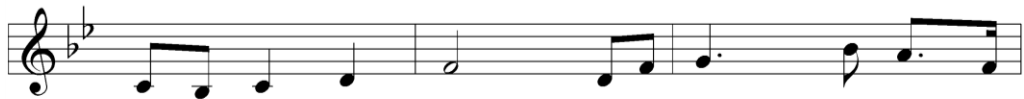
fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There



know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The



bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
song of them that feast. To God en - throned in

end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
bring us To that dear land of rest Where
glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The

midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound-ing full with song.
sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
Lamb for-ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

This twelfth century hymn, first conceived by Bernard of Cluny, depicts an idyllic, heavenly scene. The hymn is gloriously set to the English folk tune THAXTED.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century

Tune: THAXTED (76 76 76 D) Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt.

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