



THE REST OF THE STORY: *Loving God & Serving Others*



GOD MAY BE CALLING
YOU BUT PROBABLY NOT
ON YOUR CELL PHONE
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

12 November 2023, 10:15 am



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AS WE GATHER

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world—not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME and INVITATION

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING SONGS

How Great Is Our God

Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash

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Soon and Very Soon

Andre Crouch

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INVOCATION

REPENTANCE and RESTORATION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.

As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You, O God.

We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.

And in the day when Christ returns, let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

And so we will always be with the Lord.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to "watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please be seated.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

[Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.]

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Amos 5:18-24

"Let Justice Roll Down"

Faye Mergups

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 70

Roy Tedsen

*Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!*

**Let them be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life!**

*Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire my hurt!*

**Let them turn back because of their shame
who say, “Aha, Aha!”**

*May all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you!*

**May those who love your salvation
say evermore, “God is great!”**

*But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!*

**You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

“The Coming of the Lord”

Grace Perry

Please stand.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1-13

“The Parable of the Ten Virgins”

WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ Apostles’ Creed

[Please refer to the inside back cover of the hymnal or to the screens overhead]

SONG OF THE DAY

God of Wonders

Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong

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CHILDREN’S CHURCH

Jane Goss

(Kindergarten – 5th grade students are excused to attend Children’s Church in the ANNEX)

MESSAGE

“Be Ready While Waiting”

Pastor Marty Tyler

Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Notes

Focus Scripture Verse(s)

The Law (Shows Our Sin)

The Gospel (Shows Our Salvation)

Main Point:

What Does This Mean for Me?

Application:

How does what I learned help me share God's Good News?

THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving, or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY SONG

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Arr. Julie Bayon

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*see hymnal inside back cover*)

Please be seated.

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed"

René Hutzell

- Be in the Word: Read 1 Thessalonians chapters 4 and 5; Advent Blocks
- Be doing good works: Provide a soup for Soup Suppers, volunteer to help with the community Thanksgiving Dinner, or donate, assemble, or deliver Christmas food baskets.

Please stand.

CLOSING RESPONSE

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

And so we will always be with the Lord.

Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Watch therefore,

for you know neither the day nor the hour.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Lord God, gracious Father . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING TO DEPART

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

DEPARTING SONG

King Of Kings

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood

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Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Grace Fellowship Hall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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