

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (LCMS) – Warrens, WI
As We Gather – Sunday, November 21, 2021

Thank you for gathering to worship our Savior with us this Last Sunday of the Church Year as we come to be blessed by God's Word and His gift of Holy Communion. (Our statement of belief and practice regarding Holy Communion is found at the end of this service folder.) Today's message will focus on Jesus' words for us in our Gospel reading, Mark 13:23-31: "Stay awake!"

Please let Pastor Kory know if you have any questions or prayer requests today. Restrooms and coat racks are available in our Fellowship Hall. An unstaffed nursery is available in the classroom hallway for families with young children. We hope you'll also stay for Sunday School and Bible Study following today's service. The Lord bless and keep you this week! Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Introduction to Today's Service

We Sing: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" LSB 809

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain**

- ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain**

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain**

We Sing: "My Heart is Filled"

**My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me with His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart**

**My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace**

**My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace
Whose every thought is love
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King
So I will give my life my all
To love and follow Him**

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Confession and Absolution

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us,
forgive us our sins,
and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Responsive Reading: *Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12a; 2 Peter 3:13b NIV*

P: We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

C: **O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;**

P: let me know how fleeting I am!

C: **Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths,**

P: and my lifetime is as nothing before You.

C: **And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?**

P: My hope is in You.

C: **Deliver me from all my transgressions.**

P: Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

C: **Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;**

P: hold not Your peace at my tears!

C: **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.**

P: We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Prayer of the Day

C: **Lord God, You reign, robed in majesty over all that was, is, and will be. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. As we wait for Your triumphant return, keep us steadfast in the one true faith and lead us to live lives that reflect Your presence so that You may work through us as You save others by snatching them from the fire; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

We Sing: "Rejoice, the Lord is King!"

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**The Lord, our Savior, reigns The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains He took His seat above;
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**The kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given;
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come
And take His servants up to their eternal home;
Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

Old Testament Reading: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14* (A vision of the Son of Man, Jesus)

⁹As I looked,
thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;
the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened. . . .
¹³I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
¹⁴And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

Epistle Reading: *Jude 20-25* (Remember your identity in Christ.)

²⁰But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²²And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel: *Mark 13:24-37* (The return of the Son of Man)

²⁴[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and

glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

We Confess Our Christian Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We Sing: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” LSB 730

- 1 Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**
- 2 Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.**
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.**

- 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.
- 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Sermon: "Stay Awake" (Mark 13:24-37)

We Worship the Lord through Our Offerings

Offertory Song:

1 O Bless the gifts our hands have brought;
And bless the work our hearts have planned.
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;
The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

2 Praise God from who all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayers of the Church

+ We Celebrate the Lord's Supper +

(For our guests and visitors, please refer to the explanation of our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper which is found at the back of this worship folder. Thank you!)

Preface to the Lord's Supper:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ: 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Communion Distribution

Post-Communion Blessing and Prayer

Benediction (Pauline)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

Sunday School Dismissal

We Sing: "Let All Things Now Living" (see next page)

We Sing: "Let All Things Now Living"

Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

His law He enforces, The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Let all things now living Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Announcements

Sending:

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Takeaway for Today: *Seek the aid of God the Holy Spirit to stay awake in your faith.*

Receiving the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and yet desire to receive the sacrament are asked to speak first with the Pastor. Thank you!