

Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Hillsboro, Texas



*My soul waits for
the Lord more than
those who watch for
the morning*

Psalm 130:6, NRSV

2nd Last Sunday of the Church Year
STANDING IN GOD'S ETERNAL WORDS
November 16, 2025

TODAY'S MESSAGE: STANDING IN GOD'S ETERNAL WORDS

As we near the end of the church year, today's readings from God's Word teach us what we should be doing as we wait for the Day when Jesus will come again. The Day of the Lord's return will be a Day of Judgment and it will be preceded by many signs that we already see happening in the world today. Jesus has prepared us for that Day of Judgment by His first coming, when He took upon Himself the judgment that we deserve by suffering and dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead, victorious over sin and death, and He says: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but by my words will never pass away." As we wait for the Day when Jesus will come again, we are to continue standing in God's eternal words.



THE LORD'S SUPPER

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way:

(1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper". Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✝ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✝

["Divine Service: Setting One" from LSB p.151]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Opening Hymn

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LSB 515

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear.
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle. At midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain, proclaim the Bridegroom near.
Go forth as He approaches, with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting. The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory. The Bridegroom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience, their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory, the Lamb they shall behold.
In triumph cast before Him, their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear.
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see,
The day of earth's redemption, that sets Your people free!**

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

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

C: *(sung)* A - - - men.

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8-9

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

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

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. 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 the Word, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Entrance Psalm [NIV]

Psalm 130

P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; O Lord, hear my voice.

C: **Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

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: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

C: **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

P: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

C: **He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

ALL: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

Hymn of Praise

“Thy Word is a Lamp”

[LSB 973]

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

**I will not forget your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2X)

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

ALL: Lord Jesus . . . You will come again with great power and glory to gather your people to your side. Give us grace to trust your Word as we watch for your return, worship you in truth and witness to your salvation. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Malachi 4:1-6

“Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze,” says the LORD of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act,” says the LORD of hosts. “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.** Psalm 130:5

Epistle Reading [ESV]

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.** Psalm 130:5

Gospel Reading [ESV]

Luke 21:5-19, 25-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

C: *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

While some (of Jesus' disciples) were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." And they asked him, "Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?" And he said, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives."

. . .

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn

“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”

LSB 663

**Rise, my soul, to watch and pray, from your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day, unawares o'er taken.
For the foe, well we know, is a harvest reaping, while the saints are sleeping.**

**Watch against the devil's snares, lest asleep he find you.
For indeed no pains he spares, to deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey, oft are they, who secure are sleeping, and no watch are keeping.**

**Watch! Let not the wicked world, with its lies defeat you,
Lest with bold deceptions hurled, it betray and cheat you.
Watch and see, lest there be, faithless friends to charm you, who but seek to harm you.**

**Watch against yourself, my soul, lest with grace you trifle.
Let not self your thoughts control, nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin, lurk within, all your hopes to shatter. Heed not when they flatter.**

**But while watching, also pray, to the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, strength and faith increasing,
So that still, mind and will, shall unite to serve Him, and forever love Him.**

Sermon

STANDING IN GOD'S ETERNAL WORDS

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

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.

Offertory *(sung)*

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Offering *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you.")*

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer

[LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: **May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.**

Prayers

✝ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✝

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Psalms 136

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

ALL: 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.

Words of Our Lord

Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sung)* A - men.

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns

“Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

LSB 585

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, for round us falls the eventide.

O let Your Word, that saving light, shine forth undimmed into the night.

In these last days of great distress, grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness.

That we keep pure till life is spent, Your holy Word and Sacrament.

To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold, speak tongues of fire and make us bold

To shine Your Word of saving grace, into each dark and loveless place.

**May glorious truths that we have heard, the bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong, bold, unified in act and song.**

Restrain, O Lord, the human pride, that seeks to thrust Your truth aside,

Or with some man-made thoughts or things, would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

Stay with us Lord, and keep us true. Preserve our faith our whole life through.

Your Word alone our heart's defense, the Church's glorious confidence.

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB 850

God of grace and God of glory, on Your people pour Your pow'r.

Crown Your ancient Church's story. Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

For the facing of this hour.

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us, scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.
For the living of these days.**

**Cure Your children's warring madness. Bend our pride to Your control.
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation, to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of Your salvation, be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving You whom we adore.
Serving You whom we adore.**

"The Day is Surely Drawing Near"

LSB 508

**The day is surely drawing near, when Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear, as judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth, and flames on flames shall ravage earth,
As Scripture long has warned us.**

**The final trumpet then shall sound, and all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground, shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour, by God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.**

**The books are opened then to all, a record truly telling,
What each has done, both great and small, when he on earth was dwelling.
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, and all be known as they have been,
In thoughts and words and actions.**

**Then woe to those who scorned the Lord, and sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word, and loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand, and at the judge's stern command,
To Satan be delivered.**

**My Savior paid the debt I owe, and for my sins was smitten.
Within the Book of Life I know, my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free, and Satan cannot threaten me.
There is no condemnation!**

**May Christ our intercessor be, and through His blood and merit,
Read from His book that we are free, with all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face, with all His saints in that blest place,
Which He has purchased for us.**

**O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation.
We often tremble on our way, in fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea. Come, mighty judge, and set us free,
From death and ev'ry evil.**

Song of Thanksgiving

“Thank the Lord”

Psalm 100

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell everyone what He has done. Let all
who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**ALL: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this
salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us
through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

**P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be
gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.**

C: (sung) A - men, A - men, A - - men.

Closing Hymn

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

LSB 660

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner. It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry, His army He shall lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus. The trumpet call obey.
Stand forth in mighty conflict, in this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him, against un-numbered foes.
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus. Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor. Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus. The strife will not be long.
This day the din of battle. The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, their crown of life shall see,
And with the King of Glory, shall reign eternally.**

**CLC MISSION STATEMENT: "We are a FAMILY LIVING and GROWING in God's Word,
sharing God's love by TELLING others about Christ and SERVING them in His name."**