

Order of Worship for November 16, 2025

Prelude

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: *“Christ is Surely Coming”* - Hymn #509

Confession and Forgiveness p. 203

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm

P: Heaven and earth will pass away,

C: but My words will not pass away.

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

C: From where does my help come?

P: My help comes from the LORD,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: The LORD is your keeper;

C: the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil;

C: He will keep your life.

P: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in

C: from this time forth and forevermore.

All: 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: Heaven and earth will pass away,

C: but My words will not pass away.

Kyrie (*Lord have Mercy*) and **Gloria in Excelsis** (*Glory to God*) p. 204

Salutation:

P: The Lord be with you,

C: and also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 4:1–6

R: “For 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 LOPRD of hosts. “Remember the law of My servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees 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: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

R: Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse p. 205

Holy Gospel: Luke 21:5-11, 25-28

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: While some 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. “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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed: 7th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer and Explanation

Sermon Hymn: “*The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*” - Hymn # 508

Sermon: “*The Day of the LORD*” - Malachi 4:1-6, Luke 21:5-21

It is less than a month and two weeks until Christmas. Only that much time to do all the shopping and preparations. Of course, there is still Thanksgiving next week, but that may give us a little extra time for Christmas shopping. But even then, will we be ready by December 25?

We have even less time until the end of the Church year. In two weeks, we will begin Advent, the start of that new year. So, this is always a time when we hear in church about the end of all time. We are told, “There is only so much time, so we better be ready.” The Old Testament, like the passage today from Malachi, uses the term, “The Day of the LORD.” “The Day of the LORD” refers to God putting things right. Many people talk about “The Day of the LORD” as when Jesus secretly set things to right. Since there is only so much time until that happens, they say then we should do everything now so we reach a point at which we can say, “We’re ready!” It would be like securing buildings before a hurricane or bulldozing a clear path in front of a forest fire. Or it is like making sure that we have enough homework or business work done before a deadline. Then we can say we’re ready. But how do we know when we will be ready for the end of time?

There is all kinds of information online, on TV programs, and in books about the end times. 9/11 and the rise of Islamic terrorism, the decline of morals in our society, global warming, and the globalization of the economy are all seen as signs that the end is near. These sources of information focus on how we should be able to identify what is happening in the world. The idea is that we should do so much work in our lives and in our society to be ready. For example, we are told that being ready involves changing things politically so that old moral standards are enforced. Or we are told that if we build up the nation of Israel we will prepare for Jesus to come. Or if we achieve a certain moral standard then we will be ready for Jesus. All of these ideas give us control in some way over bringing about “The Day of the LORD.”

But listen to what Jesus says, “Nations will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famine, and pestilence in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.” It sounds a lot like today. It also describes 100 years ago. It may describe 100 or even 1,000 years from now. The point is that since Jesus ascended into

heaven, He could come back at any time. Jesus goes on, “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you know you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the Kingdom is near.” We can see the leaves drop from the trees. We feel the cold and the crisp frost. We know that winter is near. But we just observe it. We don’t make it happen. In the same way we can’t control or predict exactly when the end will come. We just know that it will happen because God says so.

So how are we to be ready for that? If we feel getting ready means getting to a certain point, getting to a certain level, we’ll never make it. In our Old Testament lesson Malachi writes to the people:

“Surely the day is coming; it will be like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evil doer will be stubble, and that day is coming when I will set them on fire, “says the LORD almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in his wings.”

Malachi wrote to people very late in the Old Testament period. He wrote long after people had returned from exile in Babylon. They thought their problems should have been over with since the exile was over with. The thought “The Day of the LORD” should already have happened. But instead, they were under the Persian Empire. Some of them still worshiped idols. It seemed as though “The Day of the LORD” had missed them.

So, should we be ready for a “Day of the LORD”? In the year 1,000 people looked for “Doomsday” and nothing happened. There was talk around the year 2,000 that the world might end, but it is still going on.

Again, we are thinking of “The Day of the LORD” as something we influence or can control. But it is the “Day of the LORD!

The elections are now less than a year away, but many of us are tired of hearing about it. I remember the first time I could vote in 1976. I was old enough because they just changed the law to switch the minimum voting age from 21 to 18. It was an exciting thing to do. But as I have voted and voted in more elections, it seems to take more effort to do it. Why? The choices so often seem to be the same choices, which doesn’t feel like any choice any more.

Perhaps my problem is that I am conditioned here in North America to think that if there is to be any solution, any real change, it will have to come from one of us, or it won’t come at all.

Have you seen the size of the “self-help” section in a Barnes and Noble or other book store? Addicted? Overweight? Unhappy? Stupid with computers? Well buy this book and you can fix that. Help yourself! As Dr. Phil is fond of saying, “Only you can cure what is wrong with you.”

But that's a lie. We are creatures of habit. We are caught in our ruts. Most of us are doing whatever we do, not because it brings us great joy, but because it is simply what we can do. It is us. And the biggest rut is the sin that convinces us that we can be in control. That's why the prophet speaks of "The Day of the LORD." God will come to show who is in control. And then He can free us from our struggle to try to be in control. He did that with the people of Israel first by allowing them to be conquered by their enemies. Then He allowed them to return home. But more than that He became one of us in Jesus to let Jesus experience all the punishment we deserve for trying to be in charge. Jesus frees us so that He can rule in our lives.

Jesus also tells us "The Day of the LORD" will come when He comes at the end of time. There is nothing we can do about this—no way we can control or manipulate this. Instead that day will be all about people realizing that we are helpless. But for those who look in faith to Jesus, we rejoice because our loss of control means that God is fully in control. As Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Sharing Our Ministry

Offering & Voluntary

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: p. 208

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty God, heavenly Father, for You brought on the Day of the LORD by sending Your Son Christ Jesus into our world, so that the final Day of the LORD will mean eternal life for us with You in heaven. Therefore, with angels and all the army of heaven we praise and make great Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing . . .

Sanctus (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) p. 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: Blessed are You, O Lord God, King of the universe, for You do not just make promises, but You fulfill them as You did by the death, resurrection, and ascension of Your Son, Christ Jesus. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us now as we experience the Day of the LORD as we receive Jesus' true body and blood in Holy Communion for forgiveness of sins. Hear us as we pray the prayer e taught us . . .

Lord's Prayer and Words of our Lord, and Peace of the Lord p. 209

Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*) p. 210

Distribution Hymns: “*The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us*” - **Hymn #514**
“*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*” - **Hymn #515**

Song After Communion: Nunc Dimittis (*Song of Simeon*) p. 211

Prayer After Communion:

P: Lord God, as we go through struggles, help us to raise our heads, because our redemption is drawing near, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benedicamus and Blessing: p.212

Closing Hymn: “*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*” - **Hymn #516**

Postlude: