

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 14th, 2021



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor:	Pastor Todd Hoefts	(289-362-0113)	pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant:	Louise Gondosch	(905-329-8579)	parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager:	Karen McCumber		business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary:	Pat Kimpel		secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook:	Lisa Gall		www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email:	Judy Mason		chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, being ever mindful of the end of all things and Your just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Organist: Mayumi Munoz
Readers: 9 a.m.— Tom Kuhl 11 a.m. – Howard Bogusat

Children’s Message: “Thankful for our Freedom” <https://youtu.be/IVim-6rmFag>

WORSHIP NOTE:

In compliance with Ontario Provincial Step 3, we can now offer in-person worship with allowances for social distancing.

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Heb. 11: 1-7	Wed.: Matt. 22: 23-33	Friday: Heb. 11: 17-22
Tuesday: 11 Tim. 1: 6-12	Thurs: 11 Cor. 2: 14-17	Saturday: Rev. 2: 12-17

EDUCATION HOUR: Sundays 10:10 AM — 10:45 AM

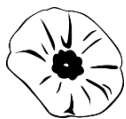
- **Adult Bible Study** will be held weekly in the basement [SOUL area]
- **Sunday School** – Will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month in basement classrooms
- **Youth Catechism** – Will be held on the 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month in the sanctuary pews

On the Sundays Pastor Todd teaches youth catechism, Louise will lead the adult classes (3rd & 4th Sunday). All other adult classes Pastor Todd will teach. 1st Adult study will be the book of JAMES.

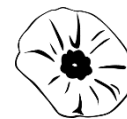
November 14: Bible Study led by Pastor Todd;
Sunday School led by Louise Gondosch.

November 21 & 28: Bible study led by Louise Gondosch;
Youth Catechism class led by Pastor Todd

Bible Study is a 4 week unit on Old Testament Prophet Malachi



Remembrance Day 2021



Christ Lutheran Church recalls and praises God for the willingness and the sacrifice of those who have served both God and country. The list of these people is on a plaque in the narthex area. Those in *italics* are still currently members.

George Berger
 Edward Brunsch
 Herbert Brunsch
 William Ebert
 Emil Erling
 Ernest Erling
 Howard Fritsch
 Howard Henemader
 Orval Jansen
 Lloyd McKean
 Cyril Mitchell
 James O. Kaufman
 Percy Dagesse
 Henry Windecker
 Fred Pappel
 Donald Frick
 Kenneth Primmer
James Hyatt
Brandon Honey
Dave Coghlan
 WW1: Carl F. Schwenker Sr.

John Nunnenmacher
 Edward Overholt
 Stephen Harrison
 Gustav Reimer
 Henry Rempel
 Ernest Roepke
 Ernest Schappert
 Philip Schappert
 Carl W. Schwenker
 Gordon Skrydstrup
 Walter Skrydstrup
 LeRoy Skrydstrup
 William Weaver
 Edward Youngblut
 Claire Gottinger
 Henry Fuchs
 Stanley Thompson
John Mewhinney
 Bert Mitchell
 Frank Wickson
 Russ Mosher

Serving in the Axis forces:

Erhard Olbeter Erich Klose
 German Army WW1: George Schneikart

The Lord bless these individuals and their families as we remember them, their dedication and willingness to serve. Of those listed above, the first one listed, George Berger, died in action.



JELLO-ON-A-STICK IS BACK: All youth & Confirmands (& friends) are invited to this 1-day retreat hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Fisherville, on Saturday, November 20, from 10 am to 3 pm. Cost is \$10 for those registered by November 11 and \$12 for registrations received after that date. Lunch will be provided. Contact Louise to register & secure a spot in the van. We will leave from the church at 8:30 am.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21: BAZAAR CRAFT TABLE WALK THROUGH: AS OUTLINED on the other descriptive Bazaar page further along in the bulletin (see details there), crafts for purchasing will be on display next week November 21st and the following one November 28th after both services. We hope you will come downstairs and walk through.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT & BAKE SALE: Saturday, November 27th from 9 a.m. to noon at St. John's Lutheran Church, 3837 Netherby Road, Snyder, ON. Featuring gift baskets, handmade pottery, handiwork, jams, crafts, \$2.00 surprise bags, white elephant table and of course an amazing selection of holiday treats and baked goods. *"For the safety of everyone, masking and social distancing will be in effect. Vaccinations are encouraged and appreciated."*



Christmas Tree Set-up:

Please join us Saturday, Nov. 27th at 4:00 p.m. to decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas. The Fellowship Committee will supply a Lasagna Supper in the basement after. Please sign up in the narthex so they can plan for the meal. Proof of vaccination required. Speak to Tim Reck or Marge Stark for details.

LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022** in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The theme for the gathering is **"IN NOT OF"** from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMYY> .

LWML-C/Mary Martha: We are so excited to invite you to join us at our LWML-C/Mary Martha meetings which will be held **in person!** We will be still wearing masks and social distancing at our meetings. (You are welcome to bring your own beverage.)

Nov. 16th – 7 p.m. Pack socks for Warm Feet for the Street.

Dec. 14th – 5:30 p.m. Advent Tea

Sunday Nov. 7, 2021: Attendance: 9 a.m. – 52; 11 a.m. — 54; Total: 106					
	Budget	Weekly Need	Last Sunday	Year To Date	+ or - (-)
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	3,293.00	168,079.90	(66,590.77)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	872.00	15,360.50	1,947.19)
Property Improvement:			480.00	5,256.50	

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3,
Attn: Darryl Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church,
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.



NEW FOR THE BAZAAR THIS YEAR:

We still are not holding an "in person" Bazaar this year, but *will do it as we did last year* with a couple new additions. As well as offering you the ability to order Baking or Deli items of your choice on an individual order form, (which will be in the bulletin SOON), we are also adding 2 other features as well.

- 1. CRAFTS:** On the last 2 Sundays of November – **Nov.21 & Nov. 28**, we will have a "**CRAFT TABLE WALK THROUGH**" downstairs after each Service. So, in between the 2 Services, and also after the 11 a.m. Service, you may proceed downstairs, via the aisle on the left (Lecturn side), down the back stairs and into the kitchen end of the basement. Crafts that have been donated for this portion of our Bazaar, will be on display for purchase. Following protocol and social distancing, they will be arranged on tables such that you can walk through from the one side to the other, exiting at the opposite side and up the stairs to the parking lot. (Bible class for those 2 Sundays will switch to the carpeted Sunday School end of the basement since the children don't meet on those Sundays)
- 2. SILENT AUCTION** will be held online this year. A Facebook page is being created by Judy Mason, which will be an open public group and pictures and descriptions of the items up for bid will be posted there. You can go to the site, make bids, and keep returning to the site as often as you like to see how the auction is going and 'up' your bids. The Auction will run for a few weeks in November. Judy will provide exact dates and the name of the page to go to, as soon as it is ready and up and running so stay tuned for more information! Winner's names will be posted on the site after the closing, along with a date for pick up at the church door.



MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE SALE OF CRAFTS, DELI AND BAKING WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THE COMPLETE LIST OF THE USUAL MISSIONS WE HAVE DONATED TO EACH YEAR, (CLWR, LBT, Haiti, Nicaragua, Medical Missions, Seminary, SOUL and the Refugee Fund) WHEREAS MONEY EARNED THROUGH THE SILENT AUCTION WILL GO SPECIFICALLY TO THE HAITI FEEDING PROGRAMME AND 'OUT OF THE COLD' HERE IN ST. CATHARINES

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2021 *** MARY MARTHA/LWMLC ***

Again this year, we offer you the opportunity to place your orders for BAKING & DELI ITEMS, using the form with this notice. Drop them in the basket on the table in the Narthex. They will be collected each Sunday OR you may send an order to carolepink121@gmail.com

Be sure to include your email and/or phone # so we can contact you about your order if need be, and to give you the purchase total and pick up date.

Pick up dates are tentatively: Saturday, Nov. 28 and December 4.

payment is by cash in the exact amount owed, or cheque. Contact Carole if you have any questions.

AS ALWAYS, MONIES EARNED GO TO SUPPORT MISSIONS:

- HAITI Feeding Programme,
- NICARAGUA,
- CLWR,
- LBT,
- SEMINARY,
- MEDICAL MISSIONS,
- SOUL
- REFUGEE FUND

******MONETARY DONATIONS also gratefully accepted******

(Donation envelopes can be found in the Narthex, next to the order forms)

1. Place a donation into the same basket that collects the order forms.
2. A cheque made out to Mary Martha Society can be put into the Offering plate
3. Cash or cheque may be given directly to our Treasurer, Ivy Parkhouse.

***PLEASE NOTE:** All Deli and Baking items come from an uninspected source. They are made by our own ladies with love and care
Please include any necessary details of your preferences like:

- regular 8" or 9" pie or individual 5" size
- ½ doz. or full doz.
- Raisins or nuts or plain

BAKING:

- LOAVES: \$6.00-7.50 - depending on kind and whether plain or with nuts or raisins (banana, zucchini, pumpkin, lemon, cranberry, date n' nut)
- HALF LOAVES: \$3.50 -4.00
- PIES: 9" - \$9.00 or 10.00 depending on kind
8" - \$8.00 or 9.00
5" \$3.50 (any kind of fruit or combination, or raisin, mincemeat, lemon)
- TARTS: 6 for \$5.00 -6.00 - depending on what kind you would like & size
- COOKIES: 6 for \$3.00-3.50
1 dozen for \$6.00-7.00 depending on variety
- SHORTBREAD: Priced as above, choice of -
 - rolled shaped shortbread
 - drop shortbread
 - plain or with cherries or nuts
- DATE SQUARES: 6 large for \$5.00
- ANY OTHER KINDS OF SQUARES: 6 for \$3.50-5.00 (depending on kind)
- CHRISTMAS CAKE: \$20/loaf or \$10/half loaf
we also have 5 light fruit cakes and 8 dark fruit cakes that are 2 lbs.
- TURKEY or BEEF PIES: individual serving size \$5.00
- PIEROGIES: 1 dozen for \$5.00
(choice of cheddar cheese & potato; cottage cheese & potato, or sauerkraut)
- CABBAGE ROLLS: \$3.00-\$3.50 each (depending on size)
tray of 4 - \$14.00 (very large - limited amounts)

DELI:

MOST OF OUR CANNING AND PRESERVING HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE SO HERE IS A LIST OF THOSE SPECIFIC ITEMS THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER (on a first to order basis until they run out):

- 4 jars Peach jam 250 ml -\$4.00
- 4 jars Peach jam 4 oz. -\$3.00
- 5 jars Crabapple jelly 250 ml \$3.50
- 9 jars Salsa - 250 ml \$4.00
- 48 jars Grape jam 250 ml -\$4.00
- 12 jars Cran pepper jelly 250 ml - \$5.00
- 12 jars Habanero Gold hot pepper jelly 250 ml -\$5.00
- 5 jars Lady Rose Relish 250 ml \$4.00
- 5 jars Chili Sauce (not hot) 250 ml wide mouth jars -\$4.00
- 5 jars Beet Pickles pint 500 ml - \$4.00
- 24 jars Peppy Salsa (500 ml) -\$7.
- 2 jars Jalapeno Jelly (250 ml) \$6.
- 4 jars Jalapeno Jelly (125 ml) -\$3.
- 4 jars Jalapeno Pepper Jam (260 ml) -\$5.
- 3 jars Jalapeno Pepper Jam (125 ml) - \$2.50
- 10 jars Apricot Jam (250 ml) -\$4.10 jars Blackberry/Apple jam (250 ml) -\$4.

CREATIVE COMMUNION

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 14, 2021 + 9 AM Contemporary Worship

SONG:

"Blessed Assurance"

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood**

Refrain:

**This is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

Refrain:

**This is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Out of the deep woeful depths I cry to You, O Lord;

O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive

And hear my cry for mercy.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in His Word I put my hope.

Let us draw near to God our Father and admit to our sins, Who promises to hear us and forgive us:

[Silence for brief prayerful reflection]

Lord God, our Heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned against You, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which You know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased you, and repent of the evil I have done. For the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.

Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you seek a change in your sinful life?

I do.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

I do.

Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and with His grace, to daily lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

I do.

In the place of Christ and by His holy command, I, as a called and ordained Servant of the Word, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of David,
Son of the Living God
Have mercy,
help us, save us
and give us Your peace. Amen

NOW THE FEAST PRAISE HYMN:

[“Now All The Vault” tune]

1 Now is the Feast of vic - tor - y God's Lamb, from
2 Join all cre - a - tion in this song! Prais - es which

sin has set us free! Praise our Sav - iour! Al-le-lu - ia!
To our God be - long! Praise the true Lamb! Al-le-lu - ia!

Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom, strength— Bles - sing and
Bles - sing and hon - our, glo-ry might— wor - ship our

Hon - our shall be His! Praise our Saviour! Praise our Saviour!
Lord in glor - y bright! Praise the true Lamb! Praise the true Lamb!

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

Words: Jose Pagan © 1979, alt Alabare! www.hymnary.org

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN “A Hymn if Glory” www.hymnary.org

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray: Gracious God and Father, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness in life here and may live with You forever in the world to come. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S WORD:

The Old Testament: *Daniel 12:1-3*

'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Hebrews 12: 11-14, 19-25*

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.... Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse:

"My Tribute" chorus

**To God, be the glory, to God, be the glory, to God, be the glory
For the things he has done.**

**With His Blood, he has saved me, with His pow'r, he has raised me;
To God, be the glory, for the things he has done!**

Andre Crouch, © 1971 My Tribute

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 13: 1-8*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter

Glory to You, O Lord.

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.

SERMON SONG: "God So Loved The World"

Verse 1: Come all you weary Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more.

Verse 2: Come all you sinners Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for.

Chorus 1: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Verse 3: Bring all your failures Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross Jesus is waiting there
With open arms.

Chorus 2: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge: Praise God praise God From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him For the wonders of His love.

Chorus 3: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save.

Verse 4: Bring all your failures Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world.

CCLI Song # 7138599

Andrew Bergthold | Ed Cash | Franni Cash | Martin Cash | Scott Cash

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- We The Kingdom Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

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MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father: thank you for giving us life every day, and for not holding back even your own dear Son, but giving him up for us all. Forgive our sins of greed and idolatry. Build our trust in you so that we may be free from trusting in money. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Thank you for the faithful service of those from whom we learned the faith. Keep us from acting for outward show, and build up our commitment to give our time, talents and treasures generously to the church. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Bless the offerings your people make for the work of your kingdom. Build up the church so that leadership in Synod and region use your resources wisely. To this end guide the work and mission of all who serve in your church here and around the world.

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Send out your saving word, dear Lord, so that all may hear and believe. Build us up as a community of your word so that your kingdom may come among us here and in the evangelism efforts where we give witness and support.

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Bless the finances of our nation and world. Turn people from corruption and greed, and build up governments and business leaders so that resources are used fairly and for the good of all. May all communities have compassion so that those in need receive help and hope. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Grant good health and healing, according to your good and gracious will, to those who are unwell in our community, *including (insert names)*. And meet the needs of those we know personally to be in want and inspire our witness of help to them. Keep us in communion with all those who have died in the faith and now are at rest from their labours, that we look forward in hope to a happy reunion in Your Kingdom.

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Father, teach us to see your own dear Son in the face of all who suffer. May we be your instruments of love and healing in the world. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT [SPOKEN]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and 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. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

[Tune: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God"]



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, Lord God Al - migh - ty,



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout glo-ries of Your name.



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, sing -- ing Ho - san -- na!



Bles -- sed is He Who comes in our Lord's name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always:

And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD



O Jes-us Chri-st, True Lamb of God; the sins of the world, You



Take a -- way. Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray;



And bless us with Your peace; A -- men

COMMUNION HYMN:

All Glory Be To Christ

[Tune: Auld Lange Syne Scottish]

Verse 1: **Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ**

Chorus: **All glory be to Christ our king
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing
All glory be to Christ**

Verse 2: **His will be done His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ**

Verse 3: **When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be
All glory be to Christ**

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SONG OF SIMEON:

"Let Your Servant Depart"

[tune: Sweet By & By]

**Let your servant depart now in peace,
For Your Word from of old is fulfilled,
Your salvation my eyes now have seen,
Long-prepared as it always has been.**

**In Your light, you reveal, the world's promise and Israel's great joy!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always may You be adored.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG:

Who You Say I Am

Verse 1: **Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me**

Chorus 1: **Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

Verse 2: **Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me**

Chorus 2: **In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

Bridge: **I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am**

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LSB DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 14, 2021 + 11 AM Traditional Worship

FIRST HYMN:

"Christ Is Surely Coming"

Tune: LSB # 433 [Glory Be To Jesus]

**Christ is surely coming bringing His reward,
Alpha and Omega, First and Last and Lord!**

**See the holy city! There they enter in,
All by Christ made holy, washed from every sin!**

**Grace be with God's people! Praise His Holy Name!
Father, Son and Spirit, evermore the same.**

*Words: Christopher Idle © 1980 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company); Music: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEB 65
65 LSB # 433 Reprinted from: www.hopepublishing.com*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.**

[Brief silence for reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

**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 neighbours
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.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your
sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your
sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

THIS IS THE FEAST:

Refrain



© This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY: [Spoken]

The Lord be with you:

And also with you.

Gracious God and Father, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness in life here and may live with You forever in the world to come. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. [Spoken]

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Daniel 12:1-3*

'At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *Hebrews 12: 11-14, 19-25*

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.... Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA [Sung]

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 13: 1-8*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter

Glory to You, O Lord. [SUNG]

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ. [SUNG]

THE 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 the 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 worshipped 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"O Christ The Same"

(Tune: Londonderry Air – Danny Boy)

**O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the a-ges,
un-changing still, amid the passing years:
O living Word, the Source of all cre-ation,
Who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the sa--me, Who wrought our whole sal-vation,
we bring our thanks for all our ye—ster-days.**

**O Christ the same, the Friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon Your Body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, Who stooped for us from Heaven,
O Prince of life, in all Your saving pow'r,
O Christ the sa--me, to Whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the pre—s-ent hour.
O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the sa--me, beyond our brief to-mor-rows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith, from A HOUSE OF PRAISE: COLLECTED HYMNS, 1961-2001, © 2003 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188, ISBN 0-916642-74-7. Tune: LONDONDERRY AIR All rights reserved. Used by permission. Hope Publishing Company, 380 S. Main Place, Carol Stream, IL 60188; www.hopepublishing.com

MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Heavenly Father: thank you for giving us life every day, and for not holding back even your own dear Son, but giving him up for us all. Forgive our sins of greed and idolatry. Build our trust in you so that we may be free from trusting in money. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Thank you for the faithful service of those from whom we learned the faith. Keep us from acting for outward show, and build up our commitment to give our time, talents and treasures generously to the church. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Bless the offerings your people make for the work of your kingdom. Build up the church so that leadership in Synod and region use your resources wisely. To this end guide the work and mission of all who serve in your church here and around the world.

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Send out your saving word, dear Lord, so that all may hear and believe. Build us up as a community of your word so that your kingdom may come among us here and in the evangelism efforts where we give witness and support.

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Bless the finances of our nation and world. Turn people from corruption and greed, and build up governments and business leaders so that resources are used fairly and for the good of all. May all communities have compassion so that those in need receive help and hope. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Grant good health and healing, according to your good and gracious will, to those who are unwell in our community, *including (insert names)*. And meet the needs of those we know personally to be in want and inspire our witness of help to them. Keep us in communion with all those who have died in the faith and now are at rest from their labours, that we look forward in hope to a happy reunion in Your Kingdom.

Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Father, teach us to see your own dear Son in the face of all who suffer. May we be your instruments of love and healing in the world. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SACRAMENT: [Spoken responsively]

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Father, Almighty and 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. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your glorious name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(LSB Page 161)

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...*

WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "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, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD

LSB tune # 163

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN:

"Alleluia! Sing To Jesus"



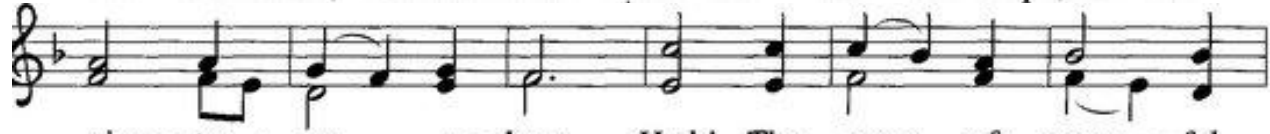
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

POST COMMUNION HYMN:

"Thank The Lord"

(LSB Page 164)



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Pour out upon us, the Spirit of Your Love, O Lord God, and unite the wills of all whom You have fed with this One Heavenly Food, the Body and Blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Servant, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen. [Spoken]

BENEDICTION: [Spoken]

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour, + and give you peace.

Amen. [Spoken]

CLOSING HYMN: "Lead On, O King Eternal!"

<https://hymnary.org/hymn/LBoW1978>



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears,



Hence-forth in fields of con - quest Your tents will be our home.
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;
For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Your grace has made us strong;
For not with swords loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light;



And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
But deeds of love and mer - cy The heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

LANCASHIRE
76 76 D

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 25

Scripture: St. Mark 13:1-8

November 14, 2021

BUILT TO LAST

As Jesus was leaving the Temple that day, one of his disciples said, "Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls." Jesus replied, "Yes, look at these great buildings. But they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!"

The word "stone" has many different meanings.

Stone cold.

Stoned out of their minds from drugs.

Stepping stone.

Skipping stones along the lake water.

Grave stones.

Building stones

Stones and rocks are marvelous, and can reveal history if we just look.

Have once been an Art Ed major, I learned how to set semi precious stones into ring settings.

Stones can have unusually high values. They can be problematic in gardens But great for building walls and foundations of our homes. Temples made of Stones say to us that they are built to last.

This makes up the backdrop for today's Gospel. Mark chapter 13 is the end of Jesus' ministry.

After this He enters into His time of suffering and death. It's fitting that we're getting ready to look forward to Jesus' birth, As He is telling us to get ready for his coming again.

The disciples have joined Jesus across the valley from the Temple. They can see the Beautiful Gate, through which the King enters. The stones that made up King Herod's Temple were enormous. Some were forty feet long, eighteen feet high and fifteen feet wide. Cut by hand from pure white limestone, and fit together so tightly and perfectly that a sheet of paper could not be inserted between the stones. The doors, walls and even the floors of the Temple were overlaid with pure gold. According to tradition, the promised Messiah was expected to come down from the Mount of Olives on the Day of Judgment and the dead in the graves would be resurrected. The Temple stood as the center and anchor of Jewish life. It provided identity, structure, and meaning just like our religious buildings today. The disciples are impressed. "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" They cherished the sacred space of the Temple. Also, they honor and admire Jesus. They should be starting to understand that Jesus' words signal the end of the Temple system. Not to mention seeing Jesus "cleanse" the Temple By throwing out the money changers and the animals And the money making mockery. The disciples must release their attachment to the temple as a structure. They are seeing a new world emerge, a new mission built on the grace and justice of the Lord, not just on stones that can be toppled. But letting go of sacred places is no easy task. Anyone who has experienced a church closure knows the sadness and depression. History, legacy, sentimentality, and a love of location are in tension with a Christ-centered theology independent of the Temple. Yet Jesus says that the Temple will be *destroyed*,

And it's hard to imagine. If the temple is going to be destroyed, that must be a sign of the end of the world. Jesus, himself, is not impressed with the temple building. He has been in conflict with temple leaders on many occasions. Criticizing those who dressed in fancy robes, and prayed out loud in public to impress others. He sat in opposition to the temple treasury while he watched a poor widow "put in 2 copper coins, everything she had, all she had to live on." The Temple represents sacrifice.

A bloody, smelly, busy, noisy place. People trustingly bring their families and animals To be killed and bled out so the sins can be cleansed. This is all coming to an end. The Lamb of God will be the last sacrifice, The perfect sacrifice, That will cleanse every person of the world. The coming to an end talk is *apocalypse*. We sometimes think of apocalypse as scary predictions. But the word "apocalypse" comes from a Greek word that means uncover, or reveal.

Yes, scary things are going to happen. Things will get worse before they get better. The strife and struggles are but *birth pangs*. Something new is being born. A new world is coming. It forces the disciples to ask for a sign they can trust, Yet Jesus doesn't give them one. Instead, He tells them what *won't* be an indication that the end is near. False prophets, wars, earthquakes, famines – these are all just potential distractions along the way. What we see as the end is really just the beginning. It's easy to look at events today and think, 'surely this must be it.' A year and a half long Pandemic truly looks like a sign of the end. We can be fooled by such things, war, terrorism, economic crashes...How can things possibly get worse? We can easily forget to see these signs for what they are showing us:

Hope in Jesus Christ.

Not fear,

Not worry,

Not escapism

Not denial--hope.

Hope urges us to be ready.

Hope calls us to action.

To prepare our own hearts by paying attention to the presence of God and living in that presence every day. This is why we pray and hear [or read] God's Word, worship and help others.

This is how our hearts stay prepared for his coming. Then, Jesus calls us to encourage each other to be prepared by meeting together as the Body of Christ, gathering around his Table receiving the benefits of His Sacrificial death on a cross until he comes. This is where we meet Jesus. This is how we help each other stay prepared for his coming. Jesus is clear that we do not need to be afraid or alarmed. We are only called through our Baptism To be people of faith. Although there will be destruction of the world as we know it, Jesus' words are really about what is falling away.

It's the question of where we will put our trust. Will we trust Jesus fully, or will we waiver and trust ourselves and those that are left in charge, or will we stand firm in the faith – knowing our Lord's promises stand? Stand better than stone temple walls. Because as we stand We are in the presence and power of the One who holds Heaven and earth together! God let life and death for the world hang in the balance As Jesus hung on a cross. And know this outcome. Its victory!

Life! Peace! Hope! This is why Jesus gives the disciples no definitive signs of the end.

The signs are done. Miracles have come and gone. The disciples ARE the signs. The Church on earth is the sign. The living Body of believers gives witness to the end of all things is coming.

But not in a way we can predict. Being ready, preparing, helping, listening, proclaiming, that is the way forward. To walk with people, provide encouragement. To share the gospel in meaningful and authentic ways. This is why we feed the hungry and clothe the naked and care for the sick and welcome the stranger and visit those in prison. Not because Jesus demands it.

It is evidence of our LIFE as followers of Jesus Christ. This is what it means to live and move and have our being in the presence of the God who made us and redeems us because He loves us.

Making disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them. Binding up the broken hearted, Learning how to care, Taking the time to listen and learn and act and be aware when there is need. No matter how bad it gets before it gets better, Jesus Christ IS hope, who suffered as we suffer, who died for our sakes, and who now lives and reigns with the Father, just as we who put our trust in him will do.

The church today is ravaged by doubt, consternation, and insecurity. This is especially true given the extended pandemic, social unrest, conspiracy theories and disinformation, the ever changing climate and financial woes. The stones and windows give us places to meet and carry out mission, And even when they are lovely, It speaks ever more powerfully how lovely and strong our lives of faith are. The heart of all of this is -- these devastating events Like many devastating life blows we encounter –do not mean that our Lord is absent or has abandoned us.

This story about Jesus predicting the temple's fall teaches us: don't become enthralled by overt displays of power and strength. Also, don't try to predict the time and place of the eschaton. And don't lose hope when the temples fall.

There is a power that is greater than any religious system.

Faith only grabs hold of Christ and never lets go.

It's that simple.

It is the power of truth, honesty, discernment, advocating for and protecting the vulnerable, resisting authoritarian oppression, and casting a vision for the Realm of God.

This is what Jesus tells us standing beneath the towering temple. This is what Jesus' ministry, life, death, and resurrection were about.

And this is who God is, what God does, and what God wants to church to be about.

We are people of hope in a world that desperately needs it.

We are people of resurrection in a world that is hell-bent on denial of reality.

We are the people Christ sends out announcing and living the good news that these are only the beginning.

Something amazing is on the horizon.

Right now, it's only seen in our faces.

Right now, it's only heard in the words we speak.

Right now, it's only found in our footsteps.

And Jesus will use us as a calming presence for all who wonder about the end of things.

Temple and church building and religious systems aren't built to last

We are

In Jesus

In His Heavenly Building without stones.

Amen.