FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—LAST DAYS AND HEAVEN

Better Things Are Yet to Come

AS WE GATHER

During the summer, pastor is preaching on a number of topics suggested and requested by members of the congregation.

Today's topic focuses on LAST THINGS: What will happen on Judgment Day, when Christ Returns, and on The Day of Resurrection. Even in Bible times, people scoffed and said, "The world just keeps going on and on as it always has! Where is this coming that Jesus talked about?"

Jesus and the Apostles made it clear that the "seeming delay" in His Second Coming is not to be misconstrued as inaction. God has an express purpose in His waiting until the perfect time, known by the Father. First lesson makes it clear that God is waiting for the right time because He wants everyone to come to repentance, but that at some point in time that waiting will end. The Gospel helps us to understand how to be prepared and the Epistle gives us glorious details, we will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Whereas God took six days to create the universe, his re-creation will happen in an instant. Today we find out details and how to be ready!
GATHERING SONG

BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE

Come set Your rule, and reign In our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, Like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now. We are Your church; we need Your pow'r in us.

We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;
Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are Your church; we pray, revive this earth.

CHORUS: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Unleash Your kingdom's power, Reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop Your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. CHORUS
PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME Ligertwood/Fielding

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

CHORUS: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
    The Name of Jesus Christ my King
    What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
    What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now CHORUS

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✡ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: With those very words, we became God’s children;
People: He placed His name on us in Baptism.
Pastor: God cares for all of His children;
People: we rejoice in His provision.
Pastor: He has given us food and drink, house and home;
People: He has given us clothing and shoes, spouse and children.
Pastor: He has given us land, animals, and all that we have;
People: He gives us all we need to support this body and life.
Pastor: Come and see what the Lord has done!
People: His works for His children are awesome and glorious.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Yes, God has given us all that we need, yet sometimes we use His good gifts for evil rather than good. Sometimes we do not rejoice in His awesome deeds, but we despair and forget our gracious Father. As we come before our heavenly Father, we recognize our sinfulness and our childish inability to live rightly before Him. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have grown weary of doing good. We have chosen evil instead of good, laziness instead of service, ignorance instead of love. We are without excuse. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Restore us to be Your rejoicing children.

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

People: Amen. We rejoice in the mercy of our Father. We go forth as His dear children because He cares for us.

* WORD *

FIRST READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said, ‘Open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you!’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor John Larson
SONG OF THE DAY  THE LION AND THE LAMB  Brown/Johnson/Mooring

He’s coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break, as broken hearts declare His praise
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

CHORUS: Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He’s roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before You
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Oh every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings
Our God who calls the saved is here to set the captives free
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?  CHORUS

SERMON  “Last Things=First Things”  Pastor John Larson
TEXT: II Peter 3:8-14

NICENE CREED  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor:  The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People:  And also with you.
OFFERING

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

Tomlin—Reeves—Cash

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

CHORUS: How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. CHORUS

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

The Lord’s Table
The Lord be with you.
2 Timothy 4:22
And also with you.
[Colossians 3:1]
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
[Psalm 136]
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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

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

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Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
DISTRIBUTION SONGS

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)  

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, Was blind but now I see.  

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  

CHORUS  My chains are gone.  
I've been set free,  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains,  
Unending love, amazing grace.  

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures. CHORUS X2  

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, The sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below, Will be forever mine, Will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.  

O COME TO THE ALTAR  

Are you hurting and broken within Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling  

CHORUS: O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ  

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling CHORUS X2  

Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen CHORUS X2  

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found
JESUS PAID IT ALL

And I hear the Savior say Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray Find in Me thine all in all

CHORUS: 'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone CHORUS

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save My lips shall still repeat CHORUS

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
       The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
       The Lord look upon you with favor and * give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SONG   I’LL FLY AWAY

Brumley

Some glad morning when this life is o'er, I'll fly away;
To a home on God’s celestial shore, I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away;
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

When the shadows of this life have gone, I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away;
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end, I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away;
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.

2 Peter 3:14, NIV
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

ORGANIST
Diana Gaide

ORGAN ASSISTANT
Gwen Geisler

YOUTH BAND
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
Roger Gaide
8:00
10:00
Scott Luethy

LECTOR
Jerry Peterson
8:00
10:00
Margo Pasha

ACOLYTE
Ann Ranisate
8:00
10:00
Erik Schwerin

USHERS
Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation
8:00
10:00
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER
Denise Lucero
8:00
10:00

ALTAR GUILD
Charmaine Rohde, Sharon Seible, Deb Shiflet
10:00

FLOWERS
Tom and Dawn Munson, in joyful celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary.

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