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!
PRELUDE
“All Hail the Power” Dino Kartsokanis

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN
“Lo He Comes With Clouds Descending” LSB 336

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.
KYRIE (spoken)

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE  “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” LSB 849

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Dear heavenly Father, You have shown Your immense care for us through the extraordinary sacrifice of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Instill in us an attitude of constant rejoicing that we are Your children and our names are written in the Book of Life, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING: II 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 Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE Luke 10:5b, 9b

Pastor: Alleluia. Peace be to this house! The kingdom of God has come near to you.
People: Alleluia.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY  “Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying”     LSB 516

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

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Dear heavenly Father, send out messengers and missionaries to every corner of the earth, that people from every tribe, nation, and language would hear the saving message of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, help Your Church throughout the whole world to bear one another’s burdens. Humble those who need humbling and strengthen those who need to ask for help. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, walk with all those who are grieving in the shadow of death, especially . . . Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, we rejoice in many things in this world. Thank You for providing so many blessings and reasons for us to rejoice. Help us not to lose sight of our main reason for rejoicing: we are Your children, and our names are written in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Look, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, especially . . . Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
Pastor:  *Additional intercessions may be added here...* Lord, in Your mercy,
People:  *hear our prayer.*
Pastor:  Lord, extend Your peace upon the whole earth, that the nations and kingdoms of the world stop their warring madness and live together under You in peace and righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,
People:  *hear our prayer.*
Pastor:  Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People:  *Amen.*

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING  “When God is Near”  J.S. Bach
Brian and Marion Wilson, vocals
Diana Gaide, pianist

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.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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:
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.”
AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”                       LSB 636
Verses 1-4

“Let Us Break Bread Together”                             arr. Beck
Brian and Marion Wilson, vocals
Diana Gaide, pianist

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”                                 LSB 673

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.

HYMN “I Am But a Stranger Here”                           LSB 748

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Carillon”                                       Rene Vierne
Make every effort to be found SPOTLESS, BLAMELESS and at PEACE with HIM.

2 PETER 3:14, NIV
BUILD YOUR
KINGDOM HERE
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: 8:00 - Roger Gaide
10:00 - Scott Luethy
LECTOR: 8:00 - Jerry Peterson
10:00 - Margo Pasha
ACOLYTE: 8:00 - Ann Ranisate
10:00 - Erik Schwerin
USHERS: 8:00 - Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation
10:00 - Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
SERVER: 10:00 - Denise Lucero
ALTAR GUILD: Charmaine Rohde, Sharon Seible, Deb Shiflet
FLOWERS: Tom and Dawn Munson, in joyful celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary.

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