

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
End Times 2 - Last Judgment - November 7, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #220 - "O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking"

**O'er the distant mountains breaking
Comes the redd'ning dawn of day.
Rise, my soul, from sleep awaking;
Rise and sing and watch and pray.
'Tis your Savior, 'tis your Savior,
On his bright returning way.**

**Come, O Long-Expected; weary
Waits my spirit anxiously.
Life is dark and earth is dreary
Where your light I cannot see.
O my Savior, O my Savior,
When will you return to me?**

**Nearer is my soul's salvation;
Spent the night, the day at hand.
Keep me in my humble station,
Watching for you till I stand,
O my Savior, O my Savior,
In your bright, your promised, land,**

**With my lamp well-trimmed and burning,
Swift to hear and slow to stray,
Watching for your glad returning,
Waiting for the blessed day.
Come, my Savior, come, my Savior,
O my Savior, quickly come!**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Malachi 4:1-3

Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the Lord of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the Lord of Armies. (EHV)

Psalm 90

Refrain: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

**Lord, you have been our 'dwelling place
Throughout all gener'ations.**

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the
world,
From everlasting to everlasting 'you are God.**

**For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has 'just gone by,
Or like a watch in the night.**

Refrain: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

**You have set our iniquities be'fore you,
Our secret sins in the light of your 'presence.**

**You turn mortals 'back to dust.
You sweep them away in the 'sleep of death.**

**The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we 'have the strength;
Yet their span is but trouble and 'sorrow**

**Teach us to number our 'days aright,
That we may gain a heart of 'wisdom.**

Refrain: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

**Satisfy us in the morning with your un'failing love,
That we may sing for joy and be glad 'all our days.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: In ev'ry age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a handmade sanctuary, a representation of the true sanctuary. Instead, he entered into heaven itself, now to appear before God on our behalf. And he did not enter to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise he would have needed to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once and for all, at the climax of the ages, in order to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And, just as it is appointed for people to die only once and after this comes the judgment, so also Christ was offered only once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time - without sin - to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 5:19-24

Jesus answered them directly, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: The Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. Indeed, the Son does exactly what the Father does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. And he will show him even greater works than these so that you will be amazed. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to those he wishes. In fact, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He is not going to come into judgment but has crossed over from death to life.” (EHV)

The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #209 - “Day of Wrath, Oh, Day of Mourning”

**Day of wrath, oh, day of mourning!
See fulfilled the prophets' warning:
Heav'n and earth in ashes burning.**

**Death is struck and nature quaking;
All creation is awaking,
To its judge an answer making.**

See, the book, exactly worded,
Wherein all has been recorded -
Thus shall judgment be awarded.

What shall I in awe be pleading,
Who for me be interceding
When your mercy I am needing?

King of majesty tremendous,
Who does free salvation send us,
Fount of pity, then befriend us.

Think, good Jesus - my salvation
Caused your wondrous incarnation,
Made you suffer my damnation!

On the cross your dying spared me;
Just and righteous you declared me;
I await the joy prepared me.

The Sermon: Hebrews 9:24-28
“One Death, One Sacrifice - Won Eternal Life”

Nature is **changing** right before our eyes. The leaves are continuing to **fade** in color, and now the trees are rapidly **shedding** those leaves. Strong winds have been blowing throughout our area, and they're signaling that **wintery** weather is on the way. I'm even beginning to see fewer birds at the feeders in our yard. But even though **nature** is changing, what about **us** - are **we** changing? Is **anything** happening to **us**, or are we the same today as we were 3 **months** ago, or a **year** ago, or way back in the **pre-COVID** days? I think it's pretty **clear** that **we** are **changing** each and every day too. Our **hair** is changing color (or falling out), our **eyes** and **hearing** are getting weaker, and our **walk** is getting slower. Each **day** every single one of us is getting a day **older**, and a day closer to the day of our **death**.

Let's **talk** about that for a bit. **Death** is usually a pretty **uncomfortable** subject, but as **Christians** we can at least **talk** about it - it's **not** a subject we need to **avoid**. And the **reason** we can talk about death is that we know that death is **not** the final **curtain** in our life. We have God's Word and promises that He has **solved** the **problem** of death. Through **His** death on the cross, Jesus has removed the

cause of death - our **sins** - and therefore He has also removed the **fear** of death. So with that in mind, let's take a look at our text today following the theme: **One Death, One Sacrifice - Won Eternal Life.**

Just about everybody **says** that **cats** have **nine** lives - but in reality we know that they really only have **one** - and that's true for **us** too. We only get to live **one life**, and then we **die**. Our text says, "*It is appointed for people to die only **once**, and after this comes the **judgment**.*" That's the way it **works**. There's no such thing as a person's soul **roaming** aimlessly around the earth, or being **reincarnated** as a different person. We **die**, and then we face the **judgment** of God. God graciously **gives** us our life, but that **life** comes with an **expiration date**. It **will** come to an **end**. And again by God's **grace**, we don't know **when** that will happen. It could be **years** from now, or it could be much **sooner**. Whether we are **very young**, or **very old**, doesn't really **matter**. Death is no **respector** of **age**.

But as **Christians** we don't have any reason to be **afraid** of **death**, or of the **judgment** which **follows** death. We know that our Lord **Jesus** is the one who will serve as the **judge** of all people. And we know that in every case His **verdict** will be **just** and **fair**. Jesus Himself will determine the eternal state of every human being, whether we will end up in **heaven** or in **hell**. And remember, Jesus **knows everything**. He has **heard** every **word** we've spoken, every **phone** conversation, all the **gossip**, and all the **four-letter** words. Jesus has **seen** everything we've **done**. He **knows** when we've **lied** and **cheated**, when we've **stolen** from others, when we've **hated**, and when we've **destroyed**. Jesus even knows all the **thoughts** and **desires** which are deep down in our hearts - thoughts which are **hidden** from everyone else.

The Lord's **verdict** - whether we will end up in **heaven** and **enjoy** eternal life - or whether we will end up in **hell**, and be faced with an eternal life which isn't worth living - all depends on where we have put our **trust** - our **faith**. If our trust is in **Jesus**, then we'll end up in **heaven** - where there will be **rest** from all of our troubles and sufferings - where there will be **laughter** and **singing** that never ends. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians, "*No eye has **seen** and no ear has **heard** and no human mind has **conceived** - that is what God has **prepared** for those who **love** him.*" But if we **don't** believe in Jesus as our Savior, we'll end up in **hell** - where there will be **no relief** from the shame of sin - unquenchable **thirst** - thick **darkness** - and the eternal **torment** of being **forsaken** by God.

The question which needs to be asked here is, Are we **ready**? Are we ready to **die**, and to **face** God's judgment? That question is far more important than wondering about the **political** future of our country, or who will win the

Packer/Viking games this year, or how much worldly **wealth** we will be able to acquire. Jesus was very clear when He said, *“What good is it for a man to gain **the whole world** and yet forfeit his **soul**?”* What’s so important about **politics** anyway? What does it really **matter** if “my team” wins a **game** or even a **championship**? What does it **matter** if we accumulate **millions** of dollars, and are able to own **everything** we ever **wanted**, if in the **end** we **die** and lose our **soul** for all **eternity**? Our most important **concern** in life needs to be for our **soul**. Are we ready to **die**, and to face **God’s** judgment?

The simple answer to that question is, **yes** - we’re **ready**. But it’s **not** because of anything **we** have done. We’re **ready** because of what **Jesus** has done **for** us. Our text says, *“Just as it is appointed for people to die only **once** and after this comes the **judgment**, so also Christ was **offered** only **once** to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a **second** time - without sin - to **bring salvation** to those who are eagerly waiting for him.”* The writer of our text presents a **comparison** here. People die **once** and then the **judgment** comes. There’s nothing else **in between**. In the same way Jesus was **sacrificed once**, and then He will appear a **second** time to **bring salvation** to His people. There’s nothing else **in between**, because everything which **needs** to be done to provide us with salvation, has already **been done** by **Jesus**.

We’re very **familiar** with the **sacrifice** which Jesus made on our behalf. We know that He was **crucified** by Roman soldiers on the day we call **Good Friday**. We know that His **death** was the **perfect offering** which the heavenly Father had **demande**d, in order to provide the **forgiveness** of sins for all people. We know that Jesus took the **blame** and the **punishment** which **we** deserved for the sins which **we** had committed. We know that He **suffered** the agony of **hell itself** during the hours He hung on the cross, and that He freely **laid down** His life. **His death** made it possible for us to stand **guilt-free** before God’s heavenly throne, and to be **cleared** of all **punishment** for our sins. The Bible tells us, *“He (Jesus) is the **aton**ing sacrifice for our sins, and not only for **ours** but also for the **whole world**.”* The words **aton**ing sacrifice mean that His death made everything **right** again between **us** and the heavenly **Father**. His sacrifice made us **at-one** with God - **reuniting** us with Him once again by removing the **sin** which had **separated** us from God.

Jesus **completed** the work His Father had **given** to Him. And God the Father Himself gave us **proof** that He **accepted** the work of His Son. On the **third day** - Easter Sunday - Jesus was **raised to life** again. And just 40 days later, He ascended **back** into heaven, where He is seated at God’s **right hand** - a position of **power** and **authority**. The **sacrifice** of Jesus on the **cross** had brought His work here on

the earth to an **end**. The Father had sent Him to **save us** from our sins, and then welcomed Him **home** again - **mission accomplished**. The **one sacrifice** which was made by Jesus was the **only thing** which could win **forgiveness** for the sins of the whole world.

Every person on the face of the earth will die just **once - one death**. There are no **re-dos** or **do overs**. There is no **second chance**. Our Savior, Jesus Christ offered **His** life on Calvary's cross just **once** - the **one sacrifice** which God the Father had demanded. Nothing else is **needed**. Nothing else would have been **effective**. And that leads us to say that **eternal life** for all believers in Jesus has been **won - w-o-n**. As Paul told the Romans, "*There is now **no condemnation** for those who are in **Christ Jesus**.*" Salvation is **ours**, and when He returns again on the Last Day, Jesus will **bring** that salvation to those who are **waiting** for Him. That's **us**. Together with the Apostle Paul we say, "*The life I am now living in the flesh, I live by **faith** in the **Son of God**, who **loved me** and **gave himself** for me.*" **Heaven** is our home.

That's why we Christians can talk about **death** without being **afraid**. Death is just **falling asleep** in the arms of **Jesus**, and waking up to hear Him speak those wonderful words, "*Come, you who are **blessed** by my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*" Because **death** has **no power** over us, we can live our lives in **faith**, **hope**, and **joy**. And we can **share** that faith, hope, and joy with all those **around** us. As the old saying goes, "*Only **one life**, 'twill soon be **past**. Only what's done for **Christ** will **last**.*" May we live **each day** of our life to the **fullest**, with love for **God**, and love for one another, as we make **every effort** to tell others about **Jesus** and His **sacrifice**. **One Death, One Sacrifice, Won Eternal Life**. Amen.

Prayers:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess that we have often failed to **prepare** ourselves for fighting the good fight of **faith**. We have often failed to make Your **love** for us the **motivating** force in our lives. We have neglected Your holy **Word**, through which You make our faith **live** and **grow**. Time and again we have failed to carry out the **good intentions** of our new man, obeying instead the **evil desires** of our flesh. We have failed to put our **complete** trust in You. Although we have **sinned** against You, nevertheless You are full of **mercy**. **Forgive** our sins, and **preserve** the faith of Your children, whom You **redeemed** with the blood of Your Son, until You return again for the **Last Judgment**.

O Jesus, precious **Savior**, we thank You for that sure promise of a crown of **life** for all who **persevere** in their trust in **You**, and do not **fall** before the assaults

of the devil, the world, and our flesh. **Bless** us each with the gift of Your **Holy Spirit**, that He may **strengthen** us, and **arm** us for battle against the forces of evil. **Rescue** those who are already in the grip of Satan. **Reclaim** the erring. **Preserve**, **comfort**, and **build up** Your Church.

O Holy Spirit, make us ever mindful of our spiritual **enemies**, who try to put to death the **new** man within us. Help us to **overcome** those enemies through Your Word, and to remain **steadfast** in our faith. Give us **wisdom** to know when we are being tempted, and **grace** to **resist** those temptations. Don't allow us to be influenced by the moral **pollution** of the world around us, but rather, help us to make the treasures of **heaven** the treasures of our **souls** - setting our minds on things **above**, where Christ dwells in glory. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and
ever.
Amen.**

Hymn #208 - "Great God, What Do I See and Hear"

**Great God, what do I see and hear?
The end of things created;
The judge of mankind shall appear
On clouds of glory seated.
The trumpet sounds; the graves restore
The dead which they contained before:
Prepare, my soul, to meet him!**

**The dead in Christ shall first arise
At that last trumpet's sounding,
Caught up to meet him in the skies,**

**With joy their Lord surrounding,
No gloomy fears their souls dismay;
His presence sheds eternal day
On those prepared to meet him.**

**But sinners filled with guilty fears
Behold his wrath prevailing,
For they shall rise and find their tears
And sighs are unavailing;
The day of grace is past and gone;
They trembling stand before his throne,
All unprepared to meet him.**

**O Christ, you died, and yet you live;
To me account your merit,
My pardon seal, my sins forgive,
And cleanse me by your Spirit.
Beneath your cross I view the day
When heav'n and earth shall pass away,
And thus prepare to meet you.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.

The Blessing:

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

C: Amen.

Hymn #588 - "Abide with Me"

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me!**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea;
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.**

**Thou on my head in early youth didst smile,
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me oft as I left thee.
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.**

**I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!**

**I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.**

**Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and eart's vain shadows
flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!**