



LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 23, 2025

THANK YOU for joining us in God's house today! We cordially ask that our Guests sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a "Let's Get Acquainted" card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

THANK OFFERING: Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

RESTROOMS are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

YOUNG FAMILIES / TODDLER BAGS – We are **GLAD YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN** to our worship service. Jesus said: *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* We know that having little children in church can be a challenge, but **DO NOT WORRY** about it. Many of your fellow worshippers have been in your shoes and are just happy you brought your children with you. For your convenience, we have reserved the back rows of seating for parents with small children. These areas provide more flexibility for your family, as well as, easy access to move downstairs if necessary. A closed-circuit TV system allows families to continue participating in the service while downstairs. Pre-school **toddler bags** and **children's bulletins** are available for their enjoyment. Ask an usher for one to use during the service and please return the toddler bag afterwards.



Year C (2025) – Season after Pentecost (Series 2)

CAUSE / EFFECT

SERIES EXPLANATION

“Every why hath a wherefore.” That was Shakespeare’s poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus’ life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that *“every why hath a wherefore.”* We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God’s kingdom.

Our worship follows this pattern.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Generosity / Gratitude</i>
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Promises / Prayer</i>
Festival of The Reformation	<i>Truth / Freedom</i>
All Saints’ Day	<i>Sainthood / Stamina</i>
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Grace / Joy</i>
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost	<i>Judgment / Peace</i>
Last Sunday in the Church Year	<i>Scripture / Anticipation</i>

493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CW 493



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
- 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand if you are able

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

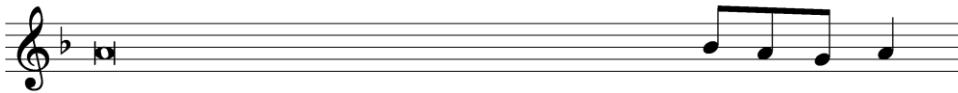
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



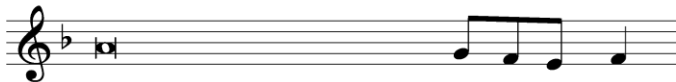
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



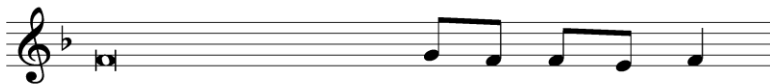
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1–3; 2:1–4

¹The threatening oracle which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²How long, LORD, must I cry for help, but you do not listen?

I call out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save!

³Why do you cause me to see injustice?

Why do you overlook misery?

Devastation and violence confront me.

There is strife, and tensions rise.

¹I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the city wall. I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer he will give to my complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me. He said:

Record the vision and write it plainly on tablets so that a herald may run with it.

³Indeed, the vision is waiting for the appointed time. It longs for fulfillment and will not prove false. If it seems slow in coming, wait for it, because it will certainly come and will not be delayed.

⁴Look, his soul is puffed up and is not righteous within him

—but the righteous one will live by his faith.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BELL CHOIR

“My Heart is Full of Thankfulness”

arranged by Sandra Einthun

Second Reading

Revelation 22:6–14

⁶The angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

⁷“And look: I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who holds on to the words of the prophecy of this book.”

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw them, I bowed down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and also with those who hold on to the words of this book. Worship God!”

¹⁰The angel also said to me:

Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

¹¹Let the one who is unjust continue to be unjust.

Let the one who is filthy continue to be filthy.

Let the one who is just continue to do what is just.

Let the one who is holy continue to be holy.

¹²Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. ¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and so that they may enter through the gates into the city.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if you are able

Gospel Acclamation (SUNG BY ALL)

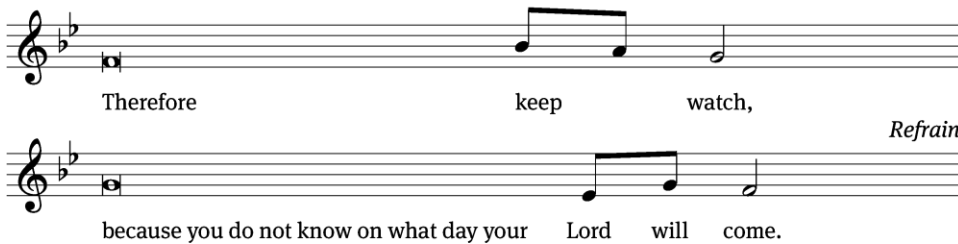
Matthew 24:42



Refrain



Tone



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

Gospel

Luke 12:35–43

³⁵“Be dressed, ready for service, and keep your lamps burning. ³⁶Be like people waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷Blessed are those servants, whom the master will find watching when he comes. Amen I tell you: He will dress himself and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸Even if he comes in the second or third watch, they will be blessed if he finds them alert. ³⁹But know this: If the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you are not expecting him.”

⁴¹Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us or to everybody?”

⁴²The Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master will put in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed is that servant whom his master will find doing so when he comes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

487 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

CW 487



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee



once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
those who set at naught and sold him,
cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Revelation 22:6–14

“Hold On & Hold Out”

Please stand, if you are able

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.

Please be seated.

BELL CHOIR

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Arranged by Kenny McChesney

Please stand, if you are able

Prayer of the Church

Please be seated.

486 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

CW 486



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," the watch-men on the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her heart with
 3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"
 joy is spring - ing; she wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 sing be - fore you with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.



Mid-night hears the wel-come voic - es and at the thrill-ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, the strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin-ing por - tal, where, dwell-ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are all you vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; her star is ris'n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, we gath - er round your ra - diant throne.

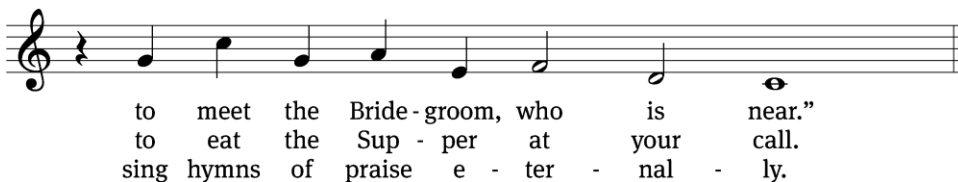


The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad-ness take!
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Christ Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No vi - sion ev - er brought, no ear has ev - er caught



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care your-selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all the mar-riage hall
 such great glo - ry; there - fore will we in vic - to - ry

(continued)



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand if you are able

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

874 Preserve Your Word, O Savior

CW 874



1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter
 2 Pre - serve your Word and preach - ing, the truth that makes us
 3 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest your storm-tossed lit - tle



day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your
 whole, the mir - ror of your glo - ry, the pow'r that
 flock; as - sailed by wind and weath - er, may it en -



Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep
 saves the soul. Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, this
 dure each shock. Come take the helm, our pi - lot, and



hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us
 spring of heav'n - ly grace, sus - tain us while here
 set the course a - right; then we will reach the



from you while wan-d'ring here be - low.
 liv - ing un - til we see your face.
 har - bor in your e - ter - nal light.

Text: Andreas Gryphius, 1616–1664, abr.; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.

Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601

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Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship
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Serving in Worship

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Deacons Robert Niethammer and Ron Roehm
Ushers Dale Finkbeiner, Mark Finkbeiner, Jake Vershum
Altar Guild Margaret Hoeft and Brenda Stevenson
Videographer Jeff Neuburger

