

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
309-949-2516

November 22, 2020 **Last Sunday of the Church Year**

Based upon Service of Prayer and Preaching (Lutheran Service Book, p. 260)

Opening Versicles

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

- P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

- P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.
- C** **Teach me Your paths.**

- P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** **Your Word is truth.**

- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

- C** **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.**

Psalm 95

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**
- ³ For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ **Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**
- ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ **do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

⁹ when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰ **For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways."**

¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

C **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 Readings

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 on back of bulletin*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Corinthians 15:20-28, on back of bulletin*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:31-46, on back of bulletin*

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

- P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

- P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Catechism

Ten Commandments

- ☐ You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Eighth Commandment

- ☐ You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Apostles' Creed

- ☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Office Hymn: 513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather



1 The clouds of judg - ment gath - er, The
2 A - rise, O true dis - ci - ples; Let
3 The home of fade - less splen - dor, Of
4 Oh, hap - py, ho - ly por - tion, Re -



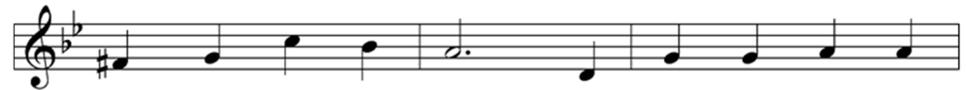
time is grow - ing late; Be so - ber and be
wrong give way to right, And pen - i - ten - tial
blooms that bear no thorn, Where they shall dwell as
lif for all dis - tressed, True vi - sion of true



watch - ful, Our judge is at the gate:
shad - ow To Je - sus' bless - ed light:
chil - dren Who here as ex - iles mourn;
beau - ty, Re - fresh - ment for the blest!



The judge who comes in mer - cy, The
The light that has no eve - ning, That
The peace of all the faith - ful, The
Strive now to win that glo - ry, Toil



judge who comes in might To put an end to
knows no moon or sun, The light so new and
calm of all the blest, In - vi - o - late, un -
now to gain that light; Send hope a - head to



e - vil And di - a - dem the right.
gold - en, The light that is but one.
fad - ing, Di - vin - est, sweet - est, best.
grasp it Till hope be lost in sight.

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Sermon

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** For the faithful proclamation of Christ, our King, and for the strengthening of God's people in this true faith and their baptismal life in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For Christ's holy, Christian and apostolic Church; for all who faithfully confess the saving name of Christ; and for the protection of the Lord to extend over us against the devil, the world and our own sinful natures, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For God's people in this place, for the mission and work God has given us to do, and for the unity of the Spirit and a spirit of cooperation and harmony in our life together, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all the schools of our church body, for the seminaries where our pastors are being trained for Your service, and for the campuses where our young are prepared for their occupations by their vocation as God's people by Baptism and faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those who have wandered from the flock of God, for the those who gather them in through the voice of God's Word, for our forgiveness, and for our willingness to forgive others in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all in authority, that they may not abuse the trust and power placed in their hands but use it honorably and for the

good of all people, especially during this time of pandemic, let us pray to the Lord:

- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For all artists and artisans; for science and invention; for those who serve us in the medical arts; for tradespeople, laborers and farmers; and for those who serve and protect us as police, firefighters and military personnel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the hungry and homeless, for the unemployed and underemployed, for those who work in disaster relief, and for the social-service agencies of our church, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For a giving spirit, that we may not neglect the poor nor fail to provide resources to the Church to fulfill the Lord's will and spread the Gospel to every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For those whom You have given earthly healing, especially Dick, we give thanks and ask that Your ongoing care be upon them. For those afflicted by illness of body or mind and for those who care for them, especially Claris, Joseph, Pam, Paula, Jim, Norma, Don, John, Bob, Betty, Donald, Delores, Arlyn, Derek, Harley, Lillian, Lynne, Clinton's Family, Crystal, Fred, Jodi, Glenn, Mike, Virginia, Jim, John, Marilyn, Casey, Jim, Brian, Drew, Kathleen, Glenda, Kelly, Carolyn, Carolyn, and Karen, that with God's strength they may kept through patience and delivered to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the grieving, that they may have hope, and for those near the end of their earthly lives, that they may be sustained in faith to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Collect of the Day

P 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.



Closing Hymn: 509 Christ Is Surely Coming



1 Christ is sure - ly com - ing Bring - ing His re - ward,
2 See the ho - ly cit - y! There they en - ter in,
3 Grace be with God's peo - ple! Praise His ho - ly name!



Al - pha and O - me - ga, First and Last and Lord:
All by Christ made ho - ly, Washed from ev - 'ry sin:
Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er - more the same;



Root and Stem of Da - vid, Bril - liant Morn - ing Star;
Thirst - y ones, de - sir - ing All He loves to give,
Hear the cer - tain prom - ise From the e - ter - nal home:



Meet your Judge and Sav - ior, Na - tions near and far!
Come for liv - ing wa - ter, Free - ly drink, and live!
"Sure - ly I come quick - ly! Come, Lord Je - sus, come!"

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Silent Prayer

Acknowledgements

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ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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Pastor

+In God's Grace—In God's Service+

WE PRAY: Son of Man, before whom all people of all the nations will stand at the Judgment, increase our love for You that our love for all humanity may be deepened and our ministry to every person be accomplished, and grant that we be counted with the faithful when You come to judge the world; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours	(Monday—Friday)	8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours	(Monday, Pastor's day off)	
	(Tuesday)	9 am—12 pm
	(Thursday)	9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
	(Wednesday & Friday)	please call ahead.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
Tuesday	6:30 pm	SS Teachers' meeting
Wednesday	5:00 pm	Confirmation
	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Thursday/Friday	OFFICE CLOSED	
Saturday	9:00 am	Advent Festival
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Communion

KEEPING CHRIST ON CAMPUS—This is the ministry work of the Central Illinois District of LCMS at U of I Urbana-Champaign, ISU Normal, EIU Charleston, and WIU Macomb. Your help is vital in keeping contact with students at our universities. Our Thanksgiving offering has been designated for this work. Place your "Thanksgiving" offering in the plate found in the Narthex.

PRAYER MINISTRY

MISSION—*Thank God for the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ.* Rejoice that Christ's death has purchased and won you from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil.

ST. JOHN'S—Mr. & Mrs. Scott Rahn—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be

so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Scott and Laurie and ask your blessing on them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Drew Schillinger	Jim Rahn	Carolyn Wildermuth
Arlyn Helke	Bob Esterlein	Lynne Johnson
Derek Helke	Lillian Hock	Jim Dahl
Carolyn Werner	Betty Firch	John Erdman
Paula Chapa	John Neumann	Fred Magerkurth
Norma Daniels		

Andrew Hill, Sarah, John, Daniel (2019/2020 Seminary Student)
Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)
Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Jon & Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St John Laborer For Christ)
Pam Bennett (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)
Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)
Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)
Casey Powers (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)
Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)
Kathleen VanDeRostyne (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)
Joseph Baamonde (Friend of Paula Mooney)
Clinton Kane Family (son of Sandy Kane)
Jim Neumann (father-in-law of Brad Gehn's son)
Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)
Clarise Anderson (mother of Sarah Hock)
Dick Fornasiere (brother-in-law of Sherry Wechsler)
Delores Gonion (mother of Michele Barry)
Glenn McAdam (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)
Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders (President of Iowa East District)
Donald Gilbert (uncle of Pastor Nerud)
Glenda Verdick (friend of Bob/Sherry Wechsler)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:
Mandy & Richard Davila (daughter & son-in-law of Dale & Linda Aper)
Luke & Nicole Thompson (son & daughter-in-law of John & Kindra Thompson)

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 22, 2020

Sermon Text: Matthew 25:31-46 (Gospel)

Other Texts: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (Old Testament Reading); 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (Epistle)

“The Final Judgment”

Grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord gave an extended discourse on the Tuesday of Passion Week. It began with His sketching the course of the world to its end, including a brief outline, if you will, leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and how that is a type (picture) of the world up to its end.ⁱ To this He added the account of His actual Parousia, that is, His return on the Last Day, to which He added the cosmic signs that would usher in His return.ⁱⁱ He then followed these up with a warning to be ready as well as various parables of admonition to drive that home, including that of the Fig Tree, the Ten Virgins, and the Talents. The only thing left to speak about is the final judgment itself. And it is that teaching which we heard in the Gospel this morning.ⁱⁱⁱ So let us hear what our Lord has to say and, by the gracious enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, grow in our understanding and, thereby, our Christian faith and life.

“When *the Son of Man* comes in his *glory*, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his *glorious* throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’^{iv}

The Lord Christ again uses His favorite term for Himself, *the Son of Man*. But here, the fullness of that title is brought out as Jesus makes certain the connection to Daniel’s prophecy.

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came *one like a son of man*, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.^v

Daniel saw in a vision what will be fulfilled when Christ returns on the Last Day in His heavenly glory to inaugurate the fullness of His kingdom, beginning with the judging of the living and the dead. So also, John’s vision recorded in the book of Revelation of “a great white throne” before which all the dead are judged^{vi} is shown to be fulfilled at Jesus’ return on *His glorious throne*, for “the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.”^{vii}

The final judgment is pictured as a separation of sheep and goats. While some have tried, there really is little symbolized by the two types of animals. It is true that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and His sheep hear His voice, but Ezekiel declared that the Lord would judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep, thus indicating that sheep need not be used only for believers.^{viii} Also,

the Passover lamb could be taken from either the sheep or the goats,^{ix} so the point is not “sheep good, goats bad,” but is simply a picture indicating that there is a difference by which mankind will be separated, a difference easily recognizable *by the Judge*.

Based upon this difference, some are placed on Jesus’ right, the others on His left. That those who “pass” the judgment are put on the King’s right reflects the ancient world’s association of the ruler’s right hand as a place of honor. And certainly, they receive the highest honor possible, inheriting the kingdom of God, the new heavens and earth.

But what is the basis of the separation, being put either on the King’s right or left? While various works are mentioned, we must consider the Judge’s own words, that those on His right are the ones who are blessed by His Father, and who thereby inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. So we recognize that the Father’s blessing is His gracious election unto eternal life and the kingdom even before the creation, thus before any works were, or even could be done by anyone!

But then is this purely arbitrary? Did God elect some and so, no matter what they believed or did, they got a “get into heaven for free” card, even as the others were doomed from the start? While God has not revealed every detail, every Bible believing Christian knows that, just as certainly as there is a divine election to salvation, so also it is not arbitrary, but worked out in time, so that those on the right can only praise God’s grace and mercy for His doing it all, while those on the left can only hang their heads in utter shame since they brought their condemnation completely upon themselves. But that this justice be made visible to all, our Lord declares *the works*, those done by the ones on His right, and not done by those on His left.

This again is reflected in the book of Revelation, as the dead are gathered and judged before the white throne. There it is recorded that the books (plural!) are opened, and that they were judged by what was written in the books where their works had been recorded. But another book (singular) was opened as well, the book of life. And those whose names were written in it were saved, but those whose names were not in it were thrown in the lake of fire.

Do you see what this means? Those whose names are written in the book of life are those *who were elected unto salvation before the foundation of the world*, which was enacted in time by bringing the person to faith in Christ and keeping them in that faith until death by the Holy Spirit’s working through the Word and Sacraments. Those whose names were not written proved themselves to not be the elect by either their constant rejection of the Word, or by their falling away from it, either way dying in unbelief. And so it is exactly as our Lord declared, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”^x

But what of the books recording the works, examples of which our Lord speaks, such as feeding, clothing, welcoming, and visiting? It actually makes sense. Remember that “without faith it is impossible to please [God].”^{xi} In other words, the elect whose names are written in the book of life have had their sins washed away, thus no evil works are recorded against them, and so then those works which have come from their faith, works of love for others, such are remembered, recorded in the books. On the flip side, those who resisted the Holy Spirit and rejected Christ still have all their sins upon them, including the greatest sin of unbelief, and still more, even those

works that were “good” in the eyes of people failed to please God, as they proceeded from a soul that is in rebellion against the First Commandment itself! By their rejection of God and His Christ, no work they do, no matter how noble or great it seemed, could be anything other than sin in the Judge’s eyes.

So then those on the right are the wise virgins who kept the faith and did works of love; they are the ones who used their talents in service of their King. Their works are not meritorious, that is, earning salvation in any way. No. The works of the saints have an evidential quality, that is, by their works the saints give evidence of the faith in Christ and His completed work that resides in their hearts. As St. James writes, “I will show you my faith by my works.”^{xii}

Have you considered the works the King mentions? There is nothing either sensational or spectacular about them. He does not say, “I was sick and you healed me” or “I was in prison and you freed me.” The works are not miraculous, but small acts of love, care, and kindness. The point is not that big works, so to speak, are never done, but that even the smallest works are pleasing to our Lord. So also on the other hand, concerning those condemned, it wasn’t that they didn’t do great works, but that they didn’t do even the smallest, *because they had no faith at all.*

So also, look to whom the works were done, “the least of Jesus’ brothers.” While acts of love and kindness are to be done to all, even our enemies, here our Lord focuses on what was done *for our fellow believers*, for that is what “brothers” means here. St. Paul expressed this same truth, “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, *and especially to those who are of the household of faith,*”^{xiii} that is, to our *brothers (and sisters) in Christ.* In this a Christian is revealed. For unbelievers too will care for their family and those to whom they are close, and will support various good earthly causes. But how many unbelievers will support the Christian Church as a whole or individual congregations? How many unbelievers will support Christians *as Christians?* For it is worth noting that when the King says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me,”^{xiv} the word *welcome* was closely connected to the early Christian practice of hospitality for traveling missionaries, clearly something not done by unbelievers! Thus we see then that even the giving of our offerings to our church is a work that makes Christians known.

So works done for Christ’s sake, out of service to Him, done not only for apostles and prophets, but even for the most humble of Christ’s people, *these* will be the public evidence set forth at the Judgment which declares a person’s faith. And consider the gracious words of Christ, that what we do for even the least of Christians, He actually accepts as done directly to Him. While no Christian should do works just for the reward, the fact that the King graciously rewards our works done in faith should certainly encourage us to ever greater service!

As a final point worth knowing, our Lord makes it clear that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, thus again showing that no one is predestined to hell. Yet, it is fitting that unbelievers should be confined there, since by rejecting God’s Son as their Savior they thereby rejected God as their Father and thereby show that the devil is their father, not by creation, but by the same spirit of manifest rebellion and sin.^{xv} Also we note that hell is as eternal as heaven since rebelling against the *eternal* God demands and requires *eternal* condemnation.

But for believers, those on the King's right, *eternal* life is the only possible outcome, for being in the eternal God's presence, the God who is life in Himself and who gives life to body and soul, could be nothing less. Nothing less than the resurrection of the body unto the life everlasting in heaven's majesty and glories. All of which was prepared for us by our Father before the foundation of the world, won for us by our King's sacrifice on the cross to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil, and sealed for us by the giving of the Holy Spirit as the down payment of the kingdom of which we, and all believers, are heirs.^{xvi}

Dear Christians, the kingdom has been prepared for you. It is only a short time until you experience its fullness. Until then, serve the Lord by serving others, especially your fellow believers, and by such give evidence of your saving faith. Amen!

ⁱ This is found in Matthew 24:4-28.

ⁱⁱ Matthew 25:29-31.

ⁱⁱⁱ Not all of these texts were read this year (series A). In the way the readings are distributed in the Three-Year Lectionary, some of these are included in the other two years (B and C), being read from either St. Mark's or St. Luke's account.

^{iv} Matthew 25:31-34 (emphasis mine). All quotes are from *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

^v Daniel 7:13-14, (emphasis mine).

^{vi} Revelation 20:11-15.

^{vii} John 5:22.

^{viii} Ezekiel 34:20.

^{ix} Exodus 12:5.

^x Mark 16:16.

^{xi} Hebrews 11:6.

^{xii} James 2:18.

^{xiii} Galatians 6:10 (emphasis mine).

^{xiv} Matthew 25:35.

^{xv} John 8:44; Ephesians 2:2.

^{xvi} 1 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13-14. The ESV translates the Greek as "guarantee," which is fine, but a footnote indicates that "down payment" is an accurate rendition as well.