

Grace Lutheran Church

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Prediction and Promise

The tone of today's gospel is ominous. "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes" (Luke 21:10). These words are ominous not because what they describe *will* happen, but because these things are happening right now—and have been since these words were written down almost two thousand years ago.

Our tendency to focus on the difficult portions of today's gospel text causes us anxiety at best and paranoia at worst. Following today's worship, we might reasonably predict that a few people will be looking for signs of the end of all things!

If we listen with trusting hearts instead of fearful ones, we can hear hope even in this text.

Although Jesus describes what may befall his disciples in the end time—arrest, persecution, imprisonment, betrayal, hatred, death—he assures his disciples and us that God will not let these things be the final word. We hear promise more than prediction.

When we pay attention to the signs that Jesus gives through his life, we will more fully understand where Christ eventually goes: the cross. At the cross Jesus will be betrayed, his friends will abandon him, his name will be hated with shouts of "Crucify him!," and there will be an earthquake. At the cross the temple of Christ's body, the dwelling place of God, will be left in ruin, and then buried in a cave sealed with a stone.

That stone will topple at the resurrection, thrown down by the power of life and love, and we receive the assurance that even death cannot hold the Crucified One. Even while the nations rage, we are safe in Christ's resurrection, down to the hair on our head.

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26th Sunday after Pentecost

November 13, 2016

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Music *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* **ELW 512** (red book)

Greeting

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity; one God; the only sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

☑ **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *Now the Feast and Celebration* **ELW 167**

Prayer of the Day

☐ Let us pray . . . O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy.

☑ **Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading: **Malachi 4:1-2a**

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that the day of the Lord is coming. On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who fear God.

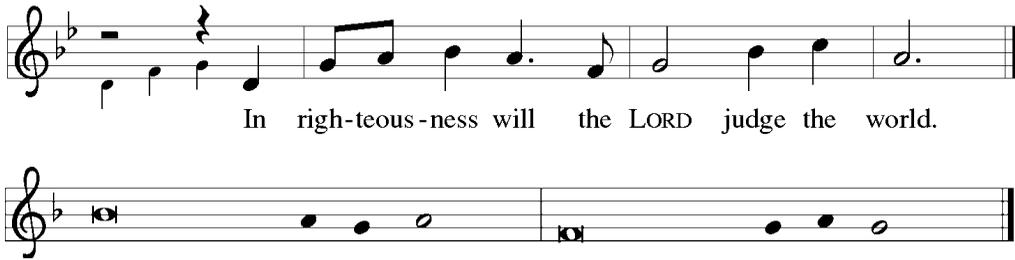
☐ A reading from **Malachi:**

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98



In righ-teous-ness will the LORD judge the world.

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. **

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity. 

Second Reading:

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. Paul warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

 A reading from **2 Thessalonians:**

⁶Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you,

⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading:

Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and shall be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

Ⓐ The Gospel according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. ⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be

able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Message/Children’s Church

Message

Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day

My Lord, What A Morning

ELW 438 (red book)

Kneel or sit as you are able.

The Prayers

☞ With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

☞ For the church, for missionaries and teachers, clergy and laity, and all ministers who proclaim the gospel in word and deed, that the Sun of righteousness enlighten the whole earth. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Sarah; our synod companion churches, St Paul Lutheran Church in Alpena, First Baptist Church of Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For rivers and lakes, hills and mountains, fruit and vegetables, and animals great and small, that creation thrive and that we care for all God has given us. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For all in authority at the local, state, provincial, national, and international levels, for those who advocate for equity, and for relief workers and their supporters. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For those who hunger or thirst, for those who doubt or are terrified, for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and for caregivers, that all experience the healing and comfort given through Christ. Protect those who serve in the military, especially Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ For those gathered in this place to hear the gospel and receive the good gifts of God through Christ Jesus, that guided by the Holy Spirit, we serve our neighbor who is in need. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit, especially *Kitty Cruson, Dave and Chery Hills, Greg and Danny Gillons, Doug Haddix and Jennifer Andersen*. Let us pray,

☞ **Have mercy, O God.**

☞ Gracious God, hear the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Let us pray,

C **Have mercy, O God.**

A In thanksgiving for men and women of every time and place who have died in Christ, and that we follow their examples of faithful living. Let us pray,

C **Have mercy, O God.**

P Almighty God, you have promised to hear those who call upon your name. We commend all our spoken and silent prayers to you, trusting in your abundant mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of the risen Lord with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts & Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

After the usher passes your pew, you are invited to drop your coins in the metal bowl at the front of the nave. These gifts are sent to Barry County Cares.

Stand as you are able.

Offertory Hymn

As the Grains of Wheat

WOV 705 (blue book)

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread,

C **so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

☩ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;

☩ **and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.**

☩ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



 Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.



 A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

 Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

 **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

 Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

 **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

 Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

 **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

 Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:

 **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion:

 Share in the inheritance of all the saints. Come to the table prepared for you.

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Sit

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
mer-cy on us.

Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear:

You are the way of justice and peace:

You are the way of mercy and love:

You are the bread of life for us all:

You pour your Holy Spirit on us:

Final time:



Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Let us Break Bread Together

ELW 471 (red book)

Bread of Life From Heaven

ELW 474

I Received the Living God

ELW 477

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, shepherding God, that you have gathered your scattered flock again this day, feeding us richly with the food of Paradise.

G **Accompany us as we serve you all the days of our lives, and gather us with the saints in the day of our death; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Announcements

Stand as you are able

P God who loves us, who gives us eternal consolation and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word; and the blessing of almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you forever.

G **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Hymn

We Are Called

ELW 720 (red book)

Sending

A Go in peace. Christ is with you

G **Thanks be to God.**

If you forgot to place your Participation Card in the offering plate, you can still drop it off in the basket outside the sanctuary.

Stewardship Information

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of instant mashed potatoes and elbow macaroni, ie, spaghetti-o's, ravioli, etc.

Worshippers last week: 93

Weekly Giving: \$4,561.00

Budget

Amount: \$4,226.98

Halloween candy – if you have Halloween candy and don't want it sitting around the house tempting you to eat it, you can drop it off in the church office and it will be placed in the candy basket throughout the year.

Today is the second Worship Leadership Training class between services or after services. If you are a worship leader or you would like to become one, plan to attend the training. Today we will train Ushers and the Table Guild team.

November is ELCA World Hunger Appeal month at Grace. This special offering will take place next Sunday, November 20th.

Did you find an ELCA World Hunger envelope in your mailbox today? Go and check! Next Sunday is ELCA World Hunger Appeal at Grace and we pray you will consider giving to this ministry, generously. A similar envelope will appear in the bulletin next Sunday. All ELCA World Hunger offerings must be placed in an envelope, please.

Christ the King Sunday, next Sunday, ends another liturgical year, Year C. November 27th begins Advent and most Gospel Readings will come from the Gospel of Matthew.

Advent devotionals for individuals and families can be found on the table just outside the sanctuary today.

Today's Worship Leaders

8:00 am

10:45am

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Mark Anton	Kate Watson
Lector	Chris Bush	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Hope Peck
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Mark Anton, Sandy Mosteller
	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Winick
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church
		Kim, Matt, Jeanette Markwart
Chancel Team	Pastor Paul E Kuhlman	Mary Kuhlman

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, November 20, 2016

Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Myrina Clements
Lector	Mary Kuhlman	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Gabe Barnaart
Usher	Dan, Melissa	Gary/Lisa Golnek
	Gavin & Grayson Patton	Carolyn O'Connor, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church
		Eve Wright, Shayna Gibbons
Chancel Team	Pastor Paul E Kuhlman	Mary Kuhlman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, November 13

Adult Forum – Psalms 9:30 am

Worship Leader Training 9:30-10:30 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Noisy Offering

High School/Middle School Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm

Monday, November 14

Adult Forum - Gospel of John – small group mtg 6:00p

Tuesday, November 15

Council meeting 6:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday, November 16

Prayer group 6:00 pm

Thursday, November 17

Clapper Kids 3:45-5:00 pm

Grace Notes 5:45-7:00 pm

Sunday, November 20

ELCA World Hunger Appeal Sunday