

Watch for the Final Events

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship today. At Redeemer we believe that the gospel message, the good news that Jesus has won for us forgiveness and eternal life, is more than just words. It's the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. Our worship focuses on the proclamation of this life-saving message as we respond with our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. May you be richly blessed as we worship together!

VISITOR CARDS are located in the card rack on the pew in front of you. If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out a card and hand it to either an usher or pastor or place it in the offering plate or the box in the gathering area.

PARENTS' ROOM If you have a young child or nursing infant and you find yourself in need of stepping out for a moment, a parents' room is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS as well as a collection of Arch books and doodle pads are available to keep little hands busy during worship. You'll find them on a corner shelf in the gathering area.

RESTROOMS are located in the gathering area. A family restroom is immediately to your right as you exit through the double doors in the rear of the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS can be found in your church bulletin box, in the literature rack on the rear wall of the sanctuary, or in the visitor card slots on the back of each pew.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like more information about Redeemer, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors or any one of the members after the service. You may also contact us anytime using the information below.

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SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

November 8/9, 2026

NEW SERIES THEME: *THE BEGINNING OF THE END*

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning

It's Time To…

October 4……..*Speak Truth to Power*

October 11……..*Invite the Unworthy*

October 18……..*Give to God What Is God's*

Reformation Day | October 25……..*Stay Steadfast*

November 8……..*Watch for the Final Events*

November 15……..*Put Your Affairs in Order*

November 22……..*Hope for the Best*



TODAY: WATCH FOR THE FINAL EVENTS

Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner. You all have to wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? It's easy to focus on something else and even forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep.

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long? God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN ***O Church, Arise* | 870**

INVOCATION

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

Both the invocation and sign of the cross are reminders of our baptism.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of Righteousness. Isaiah 61:10

CONFESSION
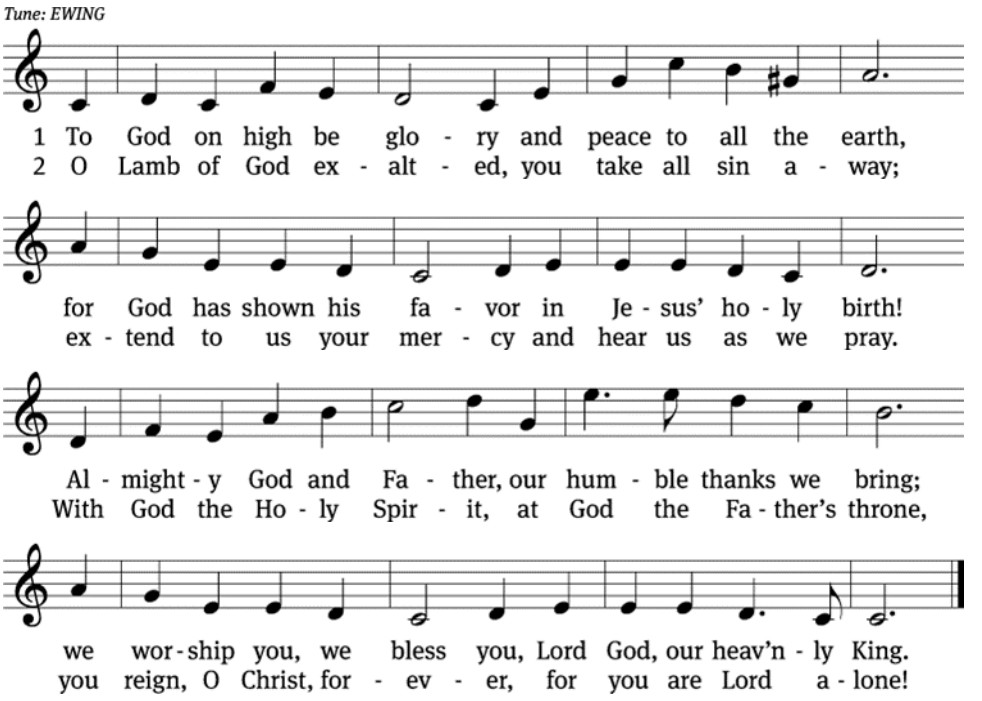
For our personal unrighteousness, and for the times when rejoicing in the Lord's salvation is the last thing on our mind, let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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.

ABSOLUTION

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.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST | *Gloria in Excelsis*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

READING ***Isaiah 52:1-6***

The prophet cries "Awake!" to people sleepwalking through life.

[1]Awake, awake, Zion,
clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
will not enter you again.

[2]Shake off your dust;
rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
Daughter Zion, now a captive.

[3]For this is what the LORD says:

"You were sold for nothing,
and without money you will be redeemed."

[4]For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

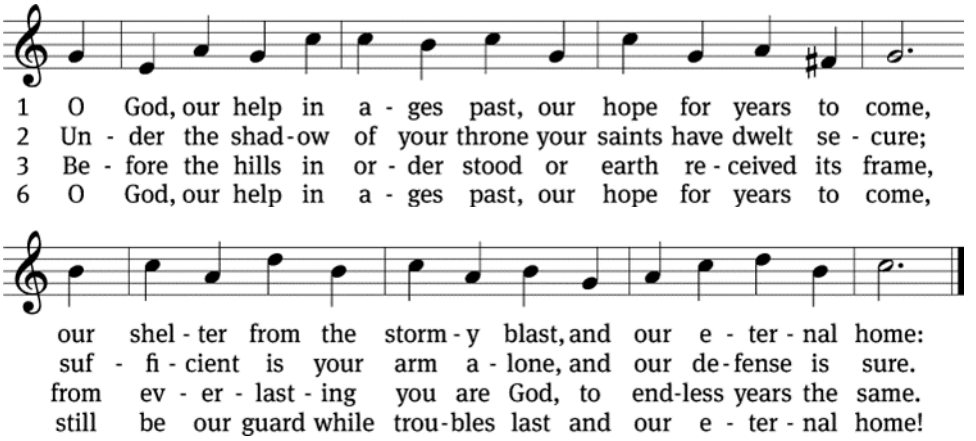
[5]"And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.

"For my people have been taken away for nothing,
and those who rule them mock,"
declares the LORD.

"And all day long
my name is constantly blasphemed.
[6]Therefore my people will know my name;
therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it.
Yes, it is I."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY IN SONG ***Psalm 90 | Hymn 820***



READING ***1 Thessalonians 5:1-11***

Be watchful for Jesus to return. Live as children of light.

[1]Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, [2]for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

[4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. [5]You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6]So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let

us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 25:1-13*

Those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom will enter into the great

[1]"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish and five were wise. [3]The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. [4]The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. [5]The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

[6]"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

[7]"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

[9]" '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.'

[10]"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.

[11]"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

[12]"But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

[13]"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 OF THE DAY *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* | 486

SERMON

THANKOFFERING

Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code or at redeemerfdl.org/give. You may also use the Vanco app: Search first for Fond du Lac, then scroll down to Redeemer. Online givers may place the cards located in the card rack on the back of the pews into the plate.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless 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.

HYMN *There Is a Higher Throne* | 885

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