

## Old Testament Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

## Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-25

<sup>11</sup>Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup>then he adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil

conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

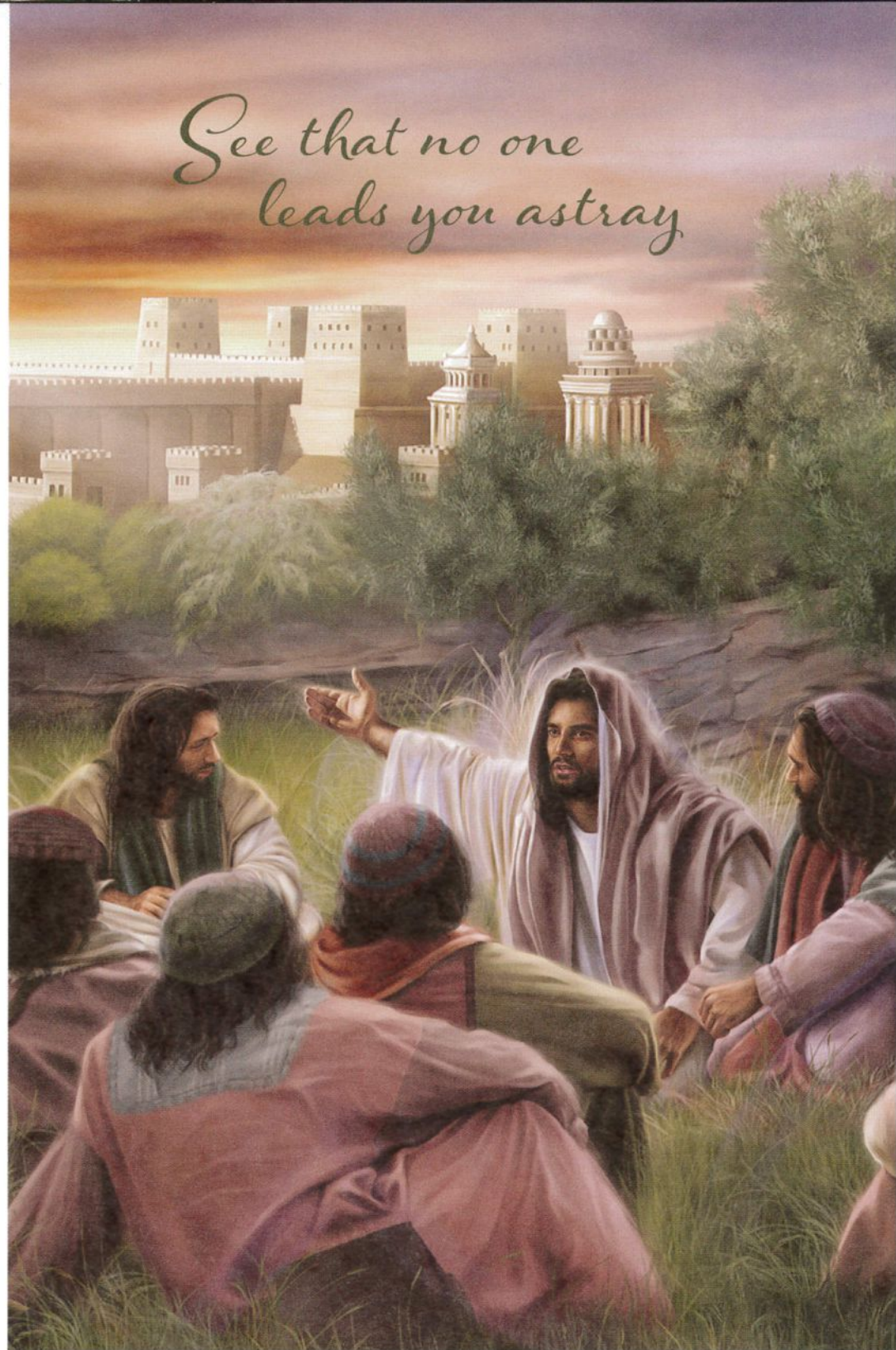
## Holy Gospel: Mark 13:1-13

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" <sup>2</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup>And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" <sup>5</sup>And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

<sup>9</sup>"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. <sup>10</sup>And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup>And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup>And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup>And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

*See that no one  
leads you astray*



**About the Cover:** Everything Jesus says is true. While prophesying of the coming destruction of the temple, Jesus also warned of false teachers who would claim to be Him. Just as Jesus says, the temple was destroyed in AD 70, and many false messiahs have come and gone throughout world history. All teaching must be tested against the Holy Scriptures (1 John 4:1). God's Word alone gives life because Jesus is true God and true man who died, rose, ascended, will return, and remains forever for us.

**St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

**8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254**

**309-949-2516**

**November 17, 2024**

**Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Divine Service Setting One (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 151)*

**Invocation and Versicles (p. 151)**

**Entrance Hymn 531 Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus**

**The Kyrie (p. 152)**

**Hymn of Praise *This Is the Feast* (p. 155)**

**Salutation and Collect (p. 156)**

P O Lord, by Your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.** *(sung)*

**Readings (on back of bulletin)**

**Gradual**

*Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

**Alleluia and Verse (Common, p. 156)**

**Hymn of the Day 511 Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment**

**Sermon**

**Nicene Creed (p. 158)**

**Rite of Confirmation (p. 272)**

**Confirmation Hymn 599 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near**

**Prayer of the Church**

*After each petition:*

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P ...one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Presentation of the Offering**

**Offertory (p. 159)**

**Service of the Sacrament (p. 160)**

*(Please see the Communion statement in the pew pads for receiving the Sacrament at St. John's.)*

**Distribution Hymns**

**701 Draw Us to Thee**

**750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee**

**623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray**

**Post-Communion Cantic: *Thank the Lord* (p. 164)**

**Hymn to Depart 660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**

*Silent Prayer*

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**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS**

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Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org  
https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE  
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**Rev. Timothy Nerud** Pastor  
815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Aaron Raschke

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

**WE PRAY:** Incite us to mission, Holy Spirit, who groans within us and cries to the Father for us, that all who are indicted by their sins may find Christ, their Savior, before the end-time is realized; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father 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.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm  
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)  
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

**STREAM SERVICES** <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: [www.stjohnsgeneseo.org](http://www.stjohnsgeneseo.org).

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** - use this website ([www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)) to receive daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

*All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.*

**ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY**

Sunday school—3 Adult Bible Class—12 Worship—68

**OFFERING**

Offering last Sunday \$2,720.00  
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget \$4,481.54

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S**

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Youth Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1*

**HEBREWS 10:14** – "For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." Our Lord Jesus has provided the one offering for sin. What we offer to the Lord is not a sacrifice for sin; we cannot buy our way into heaven with our money, works or effort. Rather, what we give to the Lord's work in the church is a thank offering, a sign of our dependency on God and all He has given us.

**ATTENDANCE BOOK**—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

**CONFIRMED** this morning is Nicole Elizabeth Werling, daughter of Joel and Jaime Werling. May God ever hold Nicole close and may she live her life as His daughter, growing each day in a deeper and mature faith in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**THANK YOU** to all who gave gifts for the Youth Gathering and Thanksgiving Baskets. We don't know the impact these gifts will have on others, but we trust God will use them for His good.

**LIFE THOUGHTS**—The Lord "is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9). Surely this compassion extends also to "the least of these" vulnerable neighbors whom Jesus calls "my brothers" (Matthew 25:40). No one need invoke abortion or summon assisted suicide when the Ancient of Days bids "all peoples, nations, and languages" (Daniel 7:13-14) to "call upon me in the day of trouble [and] I will deliver you" (Psalm 50:15). *Prayer: Almighty God, deliver especially our unborn and elderly neighbors from an evil death. Amen.*

**WITNESS & OUTREACH**—Mark 13:1-13: Jesus encouraged His disciples to pay attention to the signs of the times because they are indicators of the end of time in this world and the beginning of our eternity with God in the new heaven

and new earth that He is preparing for us. Each day we come closer to the end of this world. This fact should provide encouragement for us to be prepared for our Lord's return and be ready to share the hope that is within us and to do it with gentleness and respect (1Peter3:15).

**DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS** contributions are now being devoted to necessary infrastructure at University Lutheran Church in Champaign (UniLu). New toilets will be installed in a men's room, and a new water heater installed for the building.

"Items like these seem far from glamorous," said CID Mission Executive Ken Schurb. "They do not capture our senses until problems arise in connection with them. Then their importance stands out." He added that plumbing as well as painting and many other such "background" elements help UniLu offer Christ in Word and Sacrament to University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff.

On October 24, CID President Michael Mohr declared complete the previous DFM project, which had been furnace replacements at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb. This project ended up requiring only about half of the \$25,000 originally set aside for it.

The Macomb furnace project was the last on the list approved by CID Board of Directors for this year. Under discretionary authority within guidelines that this board adopted for DFM, Pres. Mohr opened the current project to address known needs at UniLu.

For the third consecutive year, CID mission stations have been assembling a list of their projected repair and upgrades for the next 10 years. "The list makes it easy to look up needs at CID mission properties," Pres. Mohr said. District congregations will see the total updated list prior to next summer's CID convention. **Amount to be funded:\$5,000. Project:** Replace toilets in basement men's restroom and replace water heater at University Lutheran Church, Champaign

**ALTAR FLOWERS**—The **2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms.** Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

*Give thanks as you pray:*

**MISSION**—*Thank God for your parents.* Thank Him for all those in authority. Pray for the strength to obey.

**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:

<b>Elizabeth Bjork</b>	<b>Paula Chapa</b>	<b>Joyce DeFauw</b>
<b>Betty Firch</b>	<b>Arlyn Helke</b>	<b>Jessica Johnson</b>
<b>Lynne Johnson</b>	<b>Linda Lundquist</b>	<b>Aaron Raschke</b>
<b>Drew Schillinger</b>	<b>Carolyn Wildermuth</b>	<b>Marilyn Woods</b>
<b>Dawn Daebelliehn</b>		

**Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family** (Adopted Seminarian)

**Jon/Anita Clausing** (missionaries in Kenya)

**Don Eggers** (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Jodi Martins** (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

**Shandel Loenser**

**Paul Werner** (brother of Dan Werner)

**Ron Powell** (friend of Brad Gehn)

**Justin Rittenhouse** (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

**Marty Cavato** (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

**Ellen Bauer** (grandmother of Joel Werling)

**Don Lutz** (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)

**Carol Eggers** (friend of Marilyn Woods)

**Gary Kilstom** (friend of Brad Gehn)

**Kenneth Cullison** (son of Kevin and Stacie Rahn)

**Shirley Nerud** (mother of Pastor Nerud)

**MILITARY**—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

**Mandy Davila** (daughter of Linda Aper)

**Luke/Nicole Thompson** (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

**Karl Flynn** (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

**Casey Powers Jr.** (step son of Lisa Powers)

**Brittany Loenser** (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

**Rylie Hallendorff** (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world." *C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransfor-life.org*

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2024

Text: Mark 13:1-13 (Gospel)

Other Texts: Daniel 12:1-3 (Old Testament Reading); Hebrews 10:11-25 (Epistle)

### **“Enduring in Faith in the True Christ”**

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

As we near the end of the church year our focus naturally shifts to the End Times, which both today’s readings from Daniel and Mark deal with. St. Mark records events on Tuesday of holy week, when Jesus leaves the Jerusalem temple for the last time and later that evening responds to their questions concerning its destruction which He spoke of as well as the end of the world, which they, understandably though incorrectly, assumed would be at the same time.

And so Jesus mentions some of those signs that will indicate the end of this age; most of which we have come to know fairly well: wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters, hatred and persecution of Christians, even betrayal of believers by their own closest loved ones because they are disciples of Christ. Yet, even as these *are* signs of the end, we must not forget Jesus’ words concerning them, “These are but the beginning of the birth pains.” Truly, these signs have been on the earth since the Fall into sin and have only increased since then and surely they will, as a whole, continue only to intensify until our Lord returns on the Last Day because we have entered the End Times with His first coming. That is why St. Paul could refer to his current generation as those “on whom the end of the ages has come.”

Dear fellow saints, if those first century Christians to whom Paul wrote in AD 55 were already in the end of the ages, then how much more are we, in 2024, *even further into them?* How much closer to our Lord’s return are we today than they were then? For while we do not know when the Day of the Lord will be, we can be very sure of one thing: every day that passes, every single day of our own short lives, brings us one day closer to it.

And that’s a critical factor as we reflect on our Lord’s response to His disciples’ question about the signs and times. Jesus doesn’t avoid answering the question, but He answers it *in a manner according to divine wisdom*. That is, He answers not to satisfy their fleshly curiosity, but instead to work in them spiritual preparedness. He gives them the necessary warnings and cautions so that, recognizing the signs of the End, they would neither be surprised at what occurs nor lose their faith due to them, especially the suffering they would face, but would instead endure them in constant faith and certain hope of final vindication and victory when He returns. And His answer was recorded in Sacred Scripture so that we too would be prepared, not with guns, food stocks, and shelters, for

these will not help, but spiritual ready in true faith in Christ.

“See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.” Note what our Lord draws our attention to, not the wars or disasters, not the persecutions, *for these are but signs to be noted*. No, the signs are not to be our focus, but seeing them our focus is to be on Christ Jesus all the more, which means the greatest danger is not natural calamities, wars, or persecution, but anything that would lead us astray, away from Christ. Thus, while not as dramatic to our eyes and minds, *false teaching* is the greatest threat to us, for it attacks not our body, but our soul, leading not to mere physical death, but spiritual death, eternal suffering of both body and soul. *That* is the real danger!

False teaching comes from false teachers, whom Jesus warns against numerous times, referring to them as ravenous wolves in sheep’s clothing on another occasion. Some, over the millennia, have actually claimed to be the promised Christ. More commonly, the false prophet won’t profess to be Christ directly, but by claiming to speak for He who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, yet then adjusting, changing, and contradicting His teachings as recorded in the Bible, they become false Christs. Finally, there are those who, even if they deny Christ, still maintain that they speak with either divine authority, as we see in false religions, cults, spiritual movements, and occult practices or, if not really spiritual, they claim a higher, even absolute authority, such as found in atheistic humanism, materialistic evolution, as well as Marxism and other human philosophies that claim to have the answers for anyone smart enough to listen.

Yes, Jesus warns about being led astray from Him as He alone is God’s incarnate Son. He alone is mankind’s savior. He is our substitute, born under the Law to obey it perfectly and give to us His righteousness, born under the Law to bear our sins even unto death and hell upon the cross that, so that through faith in Him we might be forgiven all our sins and be perfectly righteous in Him. Consider then, how false teaching leads astray, away from Christ Jesus.

Any denial of the Trinity or of the full divinity and full humanity of Jesus presents a false Christ, one who cannot save us. For if He is not true man, His life, sacrifice, and resurrection are meaningless, as a fake man cannot save real people. And if He is not true God, then no matter if how sinless He was, His sacrifice, however noble, would be impotent to save anyone else.

Yet, there are more subtle false teachings. Jesus did His part, now you do yours. But a Jesus whose work must be finished by us, whether through numerous good works or as “simple” as choosing Him as our personal Lord and Savior, is a Jesus who lied to us on the cross when He said “It is finished!” Either it is finished, or it isn’t. Jesus said it is! Anyone who says it isn’t by calling upon you to complete His work in any way proclaims a false Christ.

Anyone who takes “Baptism now saves you” to mean anything other than that the

Sacrament of Holy Baptism actually and truly works forgiveness of sins, new life, and eternal salvation, proclaims a false Christ. Anyone who proclaims Jesus' body and blood are sacrificed again in the Eucharist, or that His body and blood are not really present but merely symbolized, proclaims a false Christ, for Jesus said that His body and blood, once for all sacrificed on the cross, are given to be eaten and drunk in the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins. Anyone who teaches that saving faith can be sustained, will persevere through time, trial, and temptation apart from hearing the Word of Christ, voluntarily choosing to avoid the gathering of believers around Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service, proclaims a false Christ.

Anyone who says that Jesus died only for some but not all and so leave you in fear He might not have died for you proclaims a false Christ. Anyone who says Jesus died for all so everyone will be saved no matter what they believe or how they live proclaims a false Christ. Anyone who declares that some sins are just too terrible for the blood of Christ to wash away, proclaims a false Christ. Anyone who asserts that a believer in Jesus can do what they think or feel is best instead of following God's will revealed in the Bible and summarized in the Ten Commandments, or who teaches repentance does not include turning from sin and changing their sinful ways, but that a believer can choose to return to sin or willingly continue in sin and still have saving faith proclaims a false Christ.

All of these are different, some even contradictory, which proves that the opposite of a lie is not the truth, *but the opposite lie*. But since all false teachings, whatever the specifics, are false, that is, *they are lies*, they all proclaim a false Christ and so would lead a Christian away the true Christ, Jesus. The same Jesus who says, "The one who endures to the end will be saved."

This can sound rather scary as we consider the various trials and sufferings of the End Times. But what with man is impossible is possible for our Triune God. The Father has given to us His Son who by His cross has saved us from our sins, crushed the devil underneath His nail scarred feet, and overcome the hostile world of tribulation and persecution for us, His redeemed people. We have been baptized into Christ Jesus, united to Him, fed on His very body and blood, and so He is our strength, our endurance.

But there are so many false teachings and teachers that Satan uses to lead us astray. How can we know the true Christ from the false? Again, our God takes care of us! The Holy Spirit enlightens our sin-darkened hearts and minds by shining the light of Christ into our souls through His Word which is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. The Bible teaches all that we need to know in order to be saved, showing us our sins, our total inability to save ourselves, and our precious Savior, Jesus, crucified for our sins, raised for our justification. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit enlightens us to know Christ from antichrists, true teaching from false teaching, true faith from false faith, good and holy works from works of self-righteousness. More, He empowers us to endure to the end in faith in Christ and to remain faithful in our duty to Him.

No wonder confirmation is less about a rite on Confirmation Sunday, as valuable as it is,

but is primarily focused on catechesis, the study of God's Word. No wonder confirmation is not graduation, as none of us, this side of eternity, will ever graduate from the temptations of the devil, world and sinful nature, from suffering as a Christian, from false teachers and teachings trying to lead us astray, that is, *from needing Christ*. Yet in our Confirmation vows we promise the very thing we need, remaining faithful unto Christ *by remaining faithful to His Word*. When we are in God's Word regularly, studying it, hearing it, reading it, believing it, living it, the Holy Spirit works in us the endurance we need, that will last to the end. And so enduring in sincere faith in the true Christ, *we shall receive the promise of salvation in heaven's glory!*

God keep us in His Word that we would endure in faith and holiness and so be saved.  
Amen!



**Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28B)**  
**17 November 2024**

**Collect of the Day**

O Lord, by Your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Prayer of the Church—Responsive Form**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, preserve Your Church throughout the world, and keep us ready at all times for Your Son's glorious return. Lead us to proclaim with zeal His coming to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all pastors and ministers, that they may preach the pure doctrine of God's saving Word, which will never pass away. Give faith to all who hear, that in Christ they may have the peace that passes all understanding. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give You thanks, Holy Lord, for the fruits of the earth provided by Your hand. Supply the needs of all who grow, process and distribute our food, and move us to share these bountiful gifts with our neighbors in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold all in authority, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and all judges. Graciously enable them to lead according to Your will and for our good and grant a peaceful transition of authority to the newly elected officials. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, the blood of Christ gives us confidence to enter the holy places and draw near to You with true hearts in the full assurance of faith. Behold Your servants who are in difficult and trying times, those who are in prison, those who are lonely or homebound, those who are sick, especially Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Kenneth, Dawn, Joyce, Don, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Shirley, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, and Marilyn, and those who mourn especially the family and friends of Carol Eggers. Grant them comfort according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, remember Ron and Brenda Hallendorff. Bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Author and Giver of all good, Your Son gives us His very body and blood with which He purchased the world's redemption at the cross. Prepare our hearts and minds to welcome

with thanksgiving the sign and seal of this new and eternal covenant, that in the forgiveness of sins we may look forward to the day of His return. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in 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 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. **Amen.**

### **Presentation of the Offering**

Precious and glorious Savior, it is Your work, not ours that has saved us from the righteous condemnation our sins justly deserve. Nor dare we consider our new lives even a partial payment for all that You have done and continue to do for us. May we never boast in ourselves or what we give, but rather let our boasting always be in You and Your redeeming sacrifice made for us. May we love You much because You have loved us much, forgiving us much. Fill us with grateful hearts that gladly give thank offerings worthy of Your love and freely share a liberal portion of our blessings, especially to those in need. May our offering be a true fruit of faith, genuinely expressing our dedication to You. Hear us and help us. Amen.