



*... when you see these
things taking place,
you know that*

*He
Is
Near.*

at the very gates.

Mark 13:29

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 21 / 24, 2024

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

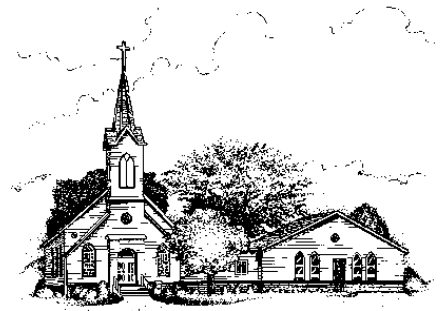
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome to God's House

“Eyes on the prize.” That axiom stresses that when pursuing some good goal, focus is important. You don’t want distractions or a lack of self-discipline to keep you from obtaining whatever that prize might be. “Eyes on the prize.” You summon the willpower to fixate on that good thing. You let nothing divert your attention from obtaining the prize. The prize that we want most is spending eternity with Jesus.

As another Church Year comes to a close, Jesus promises that he will come again “in clouds with great power and glory” to give us that prize. That prize will be so unbelievably good, it is worth fixating on. It merits our striving to set aside all that would distract us from Christ. Let us be ready. Let us keep watch. Let us live with our eyes on the skies.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending #487

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for ev’ry sinner slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

Congregation is invited to join on the refrains

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace

to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. **Refrain**

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:4-6

⁴“Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:

Instruction will go out from me;

my justice will become a light to the nations.

⁵My righteousness draws near speedily,

my salvation is on the way,

and my arm will bring justice to the nations.

The islands will look to me

and wait in hope for my arm.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,

look at the earth beneath;

the heavens will vanish like smoke,

the earth will wear out like a garment
 and its inhabitants die like flies.
 But my salvation will last forever,
 my righteousness will never fail.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Come, Let Us Praise the LORD - 95C



1 Come, let us praise the LORD, with joy our God ac -
 2 Our God of match-less worth, our King be - yond com -
 3 In wor - ship bow the knee, our glo - rious God con -
 4 Come, hear his voice to - day, re - ceive what love im -



claim, his great - ness tell a - broad and bless his
 pare, the deep - est bounds of earth, the hills, are
 fess; the great Cre - a - tor, he, the LORD our
 parts; his ho - ly will o - bey and hard - en



sav - ing name. Lift high your songs be -
 in his care. He all de - crees, who
 Right - eous - ness. He reigns un - seen: his
 not your hearts. His ways are best and



fore his throne to whom a - lone all praise be - longs.
 by his hand pre - pared the land and formed the seas.
 flock he feeds and gent - ly leads in pas - tures green.
 lead at last, all trou - bles past, to per - fect rest.

Second Reading

Jude 20-25

²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²² Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42

Alleluia. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 13:26-37

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all

these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near #488:1-2, 4-6

The day is surely drawing near when Jesus, God’s anointed,
shall with great majesty appear as judge of all appointed.

All mirth and laughter then shall cease
when flames on flames will still increase, as Scripture truly teaches.

A trumpet loud shall then resound and all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found shall from their sleep awaken
and with the living in that hour,
by God’s almighty, boundless pow’r, be changed at his commanding.

Then woe to those who scorned the Lord and sought but carnal pleasures,
who here despised his precious Word and loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
and at the judge’s stern command to Satan be delivered.

My Savior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was smitten;
within the Book of Life I know my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
and Satan cannot threaten me; there is no condemnation!

O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation;
we often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently;
come soon, Redeemer, make us free from ev'ry evil. Amen.

Sermon

Mark 13:26-37

Please stand

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is

worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.

We live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. [Today we ask that you keep in your care...] Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayers and special intercessions

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the joy of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet.

Amen.

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,



God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

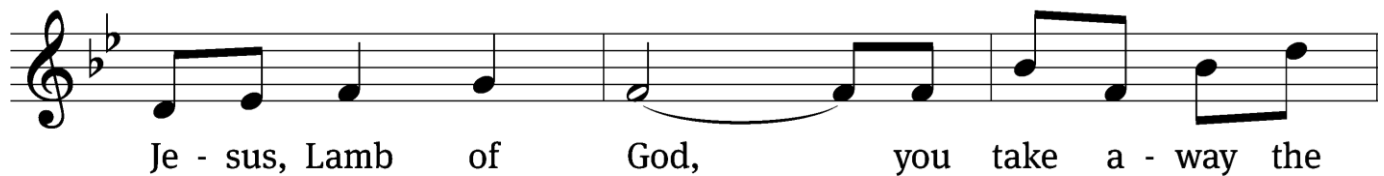
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Distribution Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers #493

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.

The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;
go forth, as he approaches, with alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.

You saints, who here in patience your cross and suff' rings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory the Lamb you shall behold,
in triumph lay before him your shining crowns of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

arise, O Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

Closing Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come #491:1, 4

Come, you thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.

God, our maker, shall provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home;

gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in your garner to abide.

Come with all your angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home.

This Week at Zion

Today:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Bible Study
Mon:	10:00 a.m.	OWLS Meeting at Shepherd of the Hills, WB
Tue:	1:00 p.m.	KM Gardens Devotion, Kewaskum
Wed:	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Thu:	9:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Worship <i>No worship service this evening</i>
Sat:	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Christmas practice
Sun:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship
	8:30 / 8:45 a.m.	Sunday School / Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Christmas Decorating
	2:00 p.m.	Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee Christmas Concert at Salem Lutheran, Milwaukee

In Our Prayers Kenn Kurtz, recovering at home following shoulder surgery last week.

Holy Communion We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the confession, commitment and unity we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice.

We thank Barb Olsen (Thursday) and Bea Pamperin (Sunday) for serving as our organists this weekend. We also thank Keith and Alyce Herman for serving as cantors (soloists).

Thanksgiving Worship Join the family of believers at Zion to thank our gracious God for all his blessings in our Thanksgiving services this week.

The same service will be held on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Thursday at 9 a.m....choose which one works best for your family. Come and praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Christmas Decorating Help us decorate the church for the upcoming Christmas season next Sunday, December 1st, after the late service (around 10:45 a.m.). Many hands are needed.

Advent Supper & Worship Join us on December 4th at 6 p.m. for a supper provided by the Ladies' Aid, followed by a shortened Advent worship service at 7 p.m. We'll reflect on the way God promised to send his Son to be our Savior and the way he promises to come into our hearts every time we hear his Word.

Sunday School Christmas Practice Our first Christmas practice is this Saturday, November 30th from 9 – 10:30 a.m. If you have children in Sunday School, please make every effort to bring them to these important practices.

Magic at the Marsh You're invited to this community event held through the end of November at the new Marshvue (N9450 Mohawk Road Theresa WI 53091). Our evangelism committee sponsored a Christmas tree (decorated by Joyce Schlagenhaft) with Christmas invitations for the community. For a calendar of viewing times, go to <https://magicatthemarsh.my.canva.site/>

Pick up a *Forward in Christ* for November from the cabinets in the entryway, as well as a December church calendar and newsletter.

Lighthouse Thanks to all who donated the food that was served for supper at Lighthouse Youth Center on Friday night. Thanks also to the Galleskes for coordinating.

Food Drive The ladies' aid is sponsoring a food and clothing drive to benefit the Kewaskum Community food pantry. Money collected will be used to buy meat and other staples to fill the freezers at the Pantry. The baskets will be out until Thanksgiving. Don't miss this twice – a - year

opportunity to show your love for neighbors.

Wreaths Across America This program honors veterans by placing Christmas wreaths on their headstones. If you would like to honor a veteran, the wreaths will be approximately \$17 and the deadline to order one will be at the end of November. Additional information and registration sheets are available near the double entrance doors at the bottom of the ramp. If you have questions, call Ralph Hagner at 262.224.5395 or e-mail lahagner@gmail.com.

Advent Devotionals You're invited to pick up the Advent devotional booklet provided by Martin Luther College. It's entitled "Glory in His Grasp." You'll marvel again at how Jesus let go of his glory here on earth so that his glory might be ours forever! You'll find them on the cabinets in the entryway near the *Forward in Christ* magazines.

Advent / Christmas Concerts From now until the week before Christmas there are any number of Christmas concerts to help you prepare for Christmas. Kick off the concert season with the Lutheran next Sunday, December 1st at 2 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church (6840 North 107th St. Milwaukee).

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Glory to God in the Highest CW 176

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Psalm of the Day

Come, Let Us Praise the LORD - 95C

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Holy, Holy, Holy CW 184

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Jesus, Lamb of God CW 186

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