The Beginning of the End



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

24TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
THE BEGINNING OF THE END: WATCH FOR THE FINAL EVENTS

November 8, 2026

Settle in with Jesus and his family. Welcome home.

Make yourself at home. Find any open spot to sit and settle in. Our worship service is designed to praise God and enrich your faith. We make it easy-to-follow with everything printed for you in this bulletin. Feel free to stay after the service to get to know some of the people you worshiped with today. St. Mark's is a place you can call home, and we look forward to seeing you next time!

Bring the kids. Our congregation enjoys the worshiping family and our services include a children's message. Parents, you can help your kids follow along today with the Kids' Questions sheet. A quiet room to help a restless child is in the lobby (to the right as you exit the main worship space).

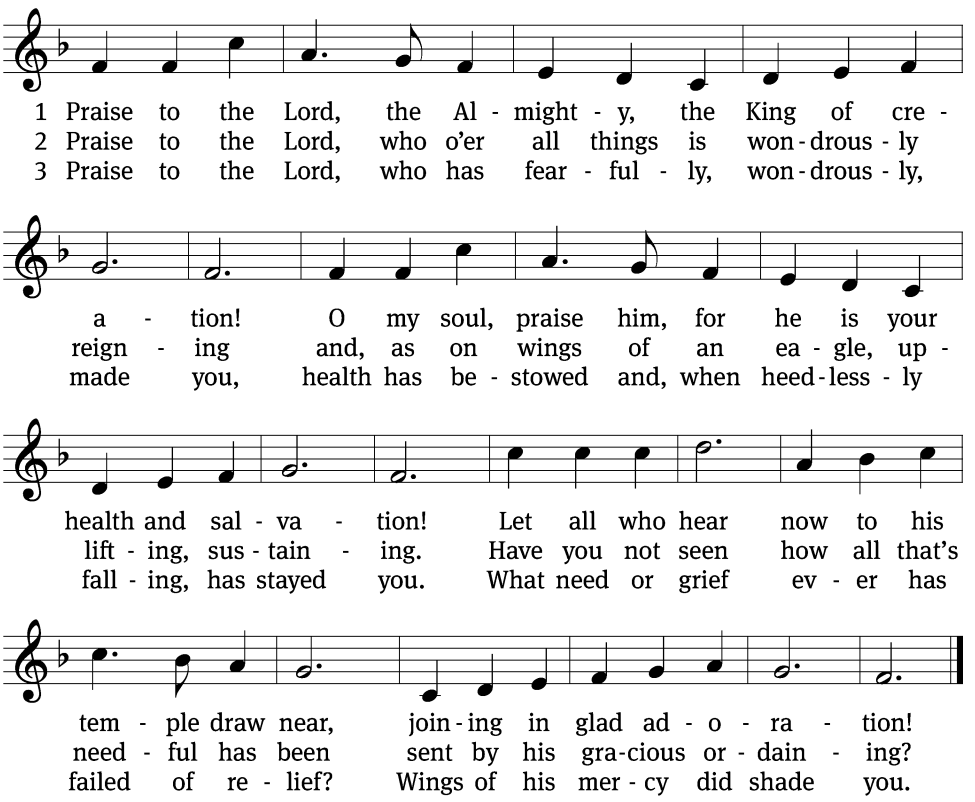
There's no obligation. Visitors, while our members regularly give offerings as an expression of thanks to God, you're not expected to give an offering. You are our guests; it's your choice. We're glad you joined us today!

Restrooms are at the back of the lobby—women's on the right and men's on the left.

Questions? If you'd like to know more about our church or our beliefs, feel free to speak with our pastor after the service and visit us online at stmarkslutheran.com.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Blue hymnal 624 sts. 1–3



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, Stralsund, 1665, alt
Text and tune: Public domain

Welcomed into the Family of God

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

Amen!

The Bible tells us we are at the beginning of the end of this present age. So we watch and wait for Jesus to return and make all things right. Being welcomed into the family of God reminds us that we don't need to fear the day of Jesus' return. Though we have not lived as we ought to, God has made us right with him because of the cross. As we confess our sins together, we acknowledge our failings. But we also rest our confidence in the forgiveness we have in Jesus.

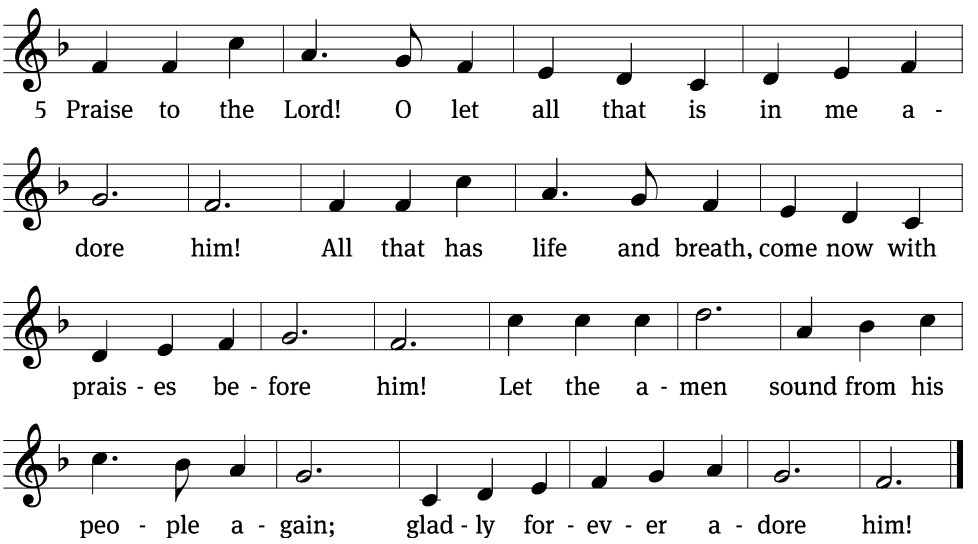
Holy and merciful Father, I confess my moral failings. Since birth, I have so often struggled with sin in my thoughts, words, and actions. My sins deserved unending punishment. But I thank you for Jesus and his cross. Show me again today the glory that is in store for all who believe in him.

God, our Father, has shown tremendous mercy to us. In love, he sent his only Son to face the punishment for our sins so we can be forgiven and restored. Your guilt is removed forever. By believing in Jesus, who rose from the dead, you are God's child—now and forever. You will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Until he calls you home, settle in with Jesus and his family here on earth, and encourage one another with these certain promises.

Amen!

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Blue hymnal 624 st. 5



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, Stralsund, 1665, alt
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

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.

God's Word — Matthew 25:1-13

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took
their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were
foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did
not take any oil with them. 4The wise ones, however, took oil in jars
along with their lamps. 5The 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. 8The 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."

God's Word — Isaiah 52:1-6

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.

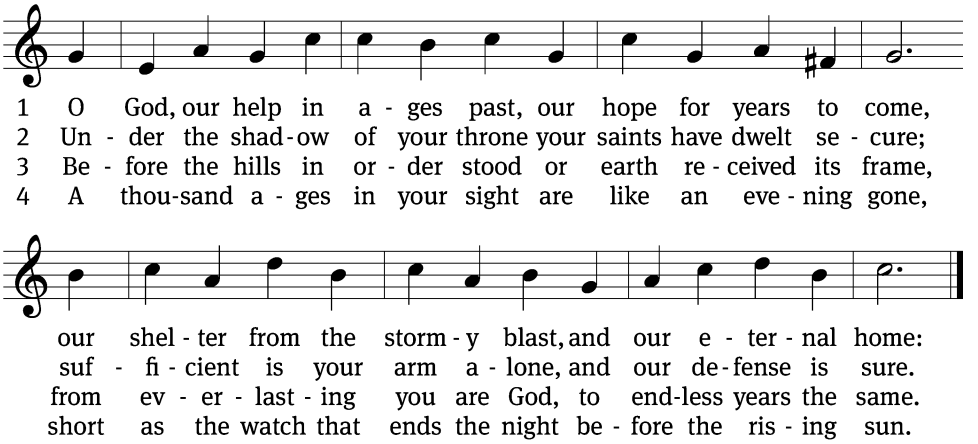
"For my people have been taken away for nothing,
and those who rule them mock,"
declares the LORD.

"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."

Children's Message

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Blue hymnal 820



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727
Text and tune: Public domain

Message from God's Word 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
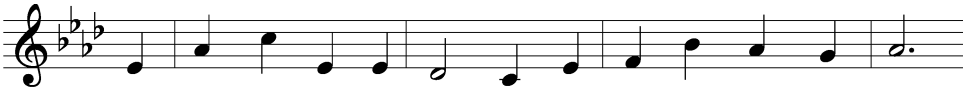
1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to
write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and
safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a
pregnant woman, and they 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.
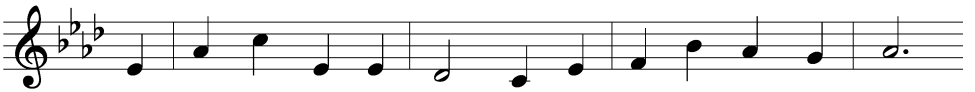
Why the Final Judgment Matters

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
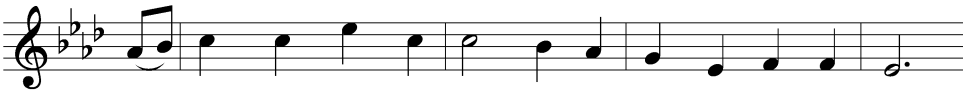
Blue hymnal 493
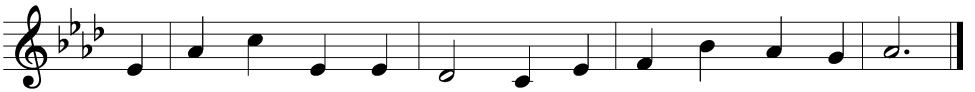


1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.
Tune: Swedish
Text and tune: Public domain

Statement of Faith — The 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.

Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer follows the prayer spoken by the pastor.

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.

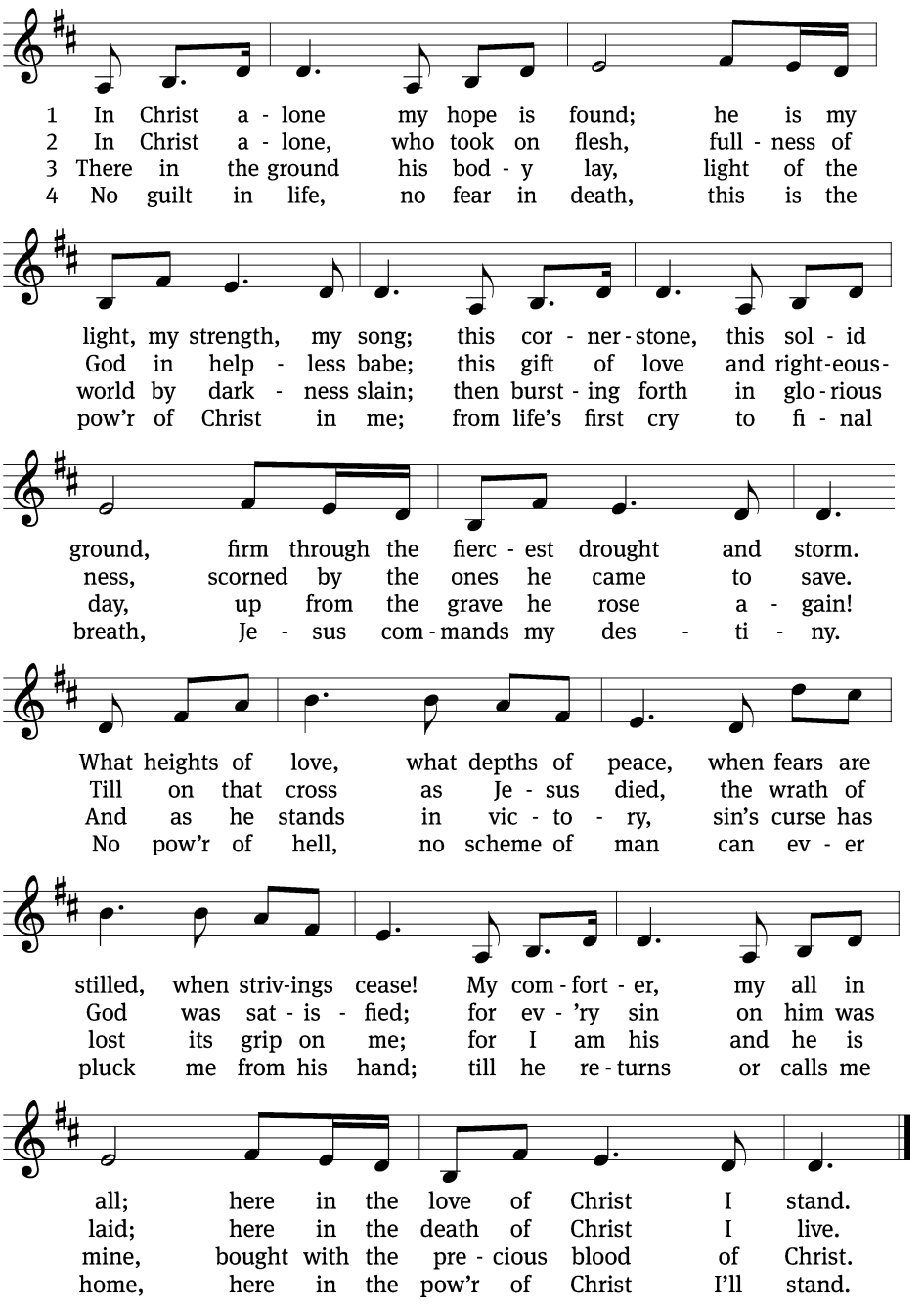
Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Amen!

In Christ Alone

Blue hymnal 510



TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship
Worship Leader: Pastor Kurt Wetzel
Musical Accompanist: Jeri Reed
Audio/Visual: Curtis Roth
Altar Flowers: Flowers at the altar are given by the Malones in honor of their anniversary, Justin's birthday, and Shawn Butler's birthday.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	9:30 a.m.	Teen Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
Monday	6:30 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council Meeting
Wednesday		Veterans Day—Thank you veterans for your service!
	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel Service
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Joy of Living Women's Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Starting Point #10
Saturday	5:00 p.m.	A Night of Thanks and Giving
Next Sunday	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service with Communion
	9:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
	9:30 a.m.	Teen Bible Study
	9:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study

To connect to our website and the auto giving option:



Birthdays		***Anniversaries***
Pamela Baker	*Nov 9*	
Judi Montgomery		
Summer Panasiuk		
Ray Garrett	*Nov 10*	
	Nov 11	Justin & Stacie Malone
Asher Hinaman	*Nov 12*	
Aiden Hinaman	*Nov 13*	
Gary Verthein	*Nov 14*	Enrique Arreola & Anna Kuske

Acknowledgments

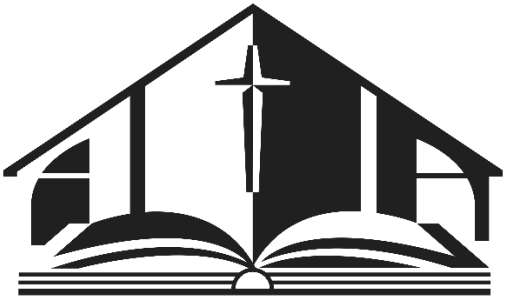
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