

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Last Sunday of the Church Year      November 21, 2021

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12a; Antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13b NIV*

*We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
the home of righteousness.*

*O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting I am!*

*Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.*

*And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?  
My hope is in you.*

*Deliver me from all my transgressions.  
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!*

*Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;  
hold not your peace at my tears!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
the home of righteousness.*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *Lord Jesus Christ,  
so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit,  
that, ever mindful of Your glorious return,  
we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living;  
for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen**

## **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.*

## **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy,*  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

### **Isaiah 51:4-6 (ESV)**

- <sup>4</sup> “Give attention to me, my people,  
and give ear to me, my nation;  
for a law will go out from me,  
and I will set my justice for a  
light to the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> My righteousness draws near,  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will judge the  
peoples;  
the coastlands hope for me,  
and for my arm they wait.
- <sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens vanish like  
smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a  
garment,  
and they who dwell in it will die  
in like manner;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my righteousness will never  
be dismayed.

### **Revelation 1:4b-8 (ESV)**

Grace to you and peace from him  
who is and who was and who is to  
come, and from the seven spirits  
who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and  
from Jesus Christ the faithful  
witness, the firstborn of the dead,  
and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has  
freed us from our sins by his blood  
<sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to  
his God and Father, to him be  
glory and dominion forever and  
ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming  
with the clouds, and every eye will  
see him, even those who pierced  
him, and all tribes of the earth will

wail on account of him. Even so.  
Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the  
Omega,” says the Lord God, “who  
is and who was and who is to  
come, the Almighty.”

### **Mark 13:24-37 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> [Jesus said,] “But in those  
days, after that tribulation, the sun  
will be darkened, and the moon  
will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the  
stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will  
be shaken. <sup>26</sup> And then they will  
see the Son of Man coming in  
clouds with great power and glory.  
<sup>27</sup> And then he will send out the  
angels and gather his elect from  
the four winds, from the ends of  
the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> “From the fig tree learn its  
lesson: as soon as its branch  
becomes tender and puts out its  
leaves, you know that summer is  
near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see  
these things taking place, you  
know that he is near, at the very  
gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly, I say to you, this  
generation will not pass away until  
all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>  
Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> “But concerning that day or  
that hour, no one knows, not even  
the angels in heaven, nor the Son,  
but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard,  
keep awake. For you do not know  
when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is  
like a man going on a journey,  
when he leaves home and puts his

servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup> Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— <sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”



## THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

### PROPER 29

Isaiah 51:4–6, or Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

Jude 20–25, or Revelation 1:4b–8

Mark 13:24–37, or John 18:33–37

### *In Repentance We Are Alert to the Coming of Christ*

The signs of the end are all around us, constant reminders that “*heaven and earth will pass away.*” But all of these signs are centered in the Cross of Christ, whereby He has conquered sin and death, that we might be raised with Him in righteousness through His Word of the Gospel, which “*will not pass away*” (Mark 13:31). He is “*the firstborn of the dead,*” who in His great love “*has freed us from our sins by His blood*” (Rev. 1:5). His salvation is certain, because “*His dominion is an everlasting dominion,*” and His kingdom “*shall not be destroyed*” (Dan. 7:14). For this purpose He came into the world, to reign in love through His voice of the Gospel, which is the truth (John 18:37). So is the righteousness of Christ “*a light to the peoples,*” which “*will never be dismayed,*” because it is the justice of His Cross and Resurrection (Is. 51:4–6). As He “*is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory,*” so wait upon “*the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life*” (Jude 20–24).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

November 28 First Sunday in Advent (Series C):

Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 19:28-40 *or* Luke 21:25-36