



FIRST LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven.
We are eagerly waiting for a
Savior from there, the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

Welcome



Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

October 4, 2026

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.

Today’s Focus: It’s Time To: Speak the Truth to Power

Sometimes people get braver when they realize they are nearing the end. They speak things they couldn’t or wouldn’t say before, even to the powerful, because they realize they have nothing to lose.

The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Jesus’ death on the cross has many powerful enemies. Sometimes those enemies are religious people, rebellious spirits and heretics. Sometimes those enemies are people of this world who worship their own personal desires and glory in their shame.

It doesn’t matter how powerful the enemies are. God persists in speaking his truth and drawing our eyes to his Son, who will help us persevere to the end and speak truth to power.

Opening Hymn

871 Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure and bold - ly strive for
3 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish, and keep them that they



foe de - stroy you, for Sa - tan has de - signed your fall.
heav'n - ly trea - sure. Be stead - fast in the Sav - ior's might.
nev - er per - ish whom you have pur - chased with your blood.



Wield God's Word, a weap - on glo - rious; a - gainst each foe you'll
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, for Je - sus from all
Let new life to us be giv - en that we may look to



be vic - to - rious, for God will set you o'er them all.
harm will hide you. By faith you'll con - quer in the fight.
you in heav - en when - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell, here is Im - man - u - el!
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!
Your Spir - it on us pour that we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,
Joy a - waits you. The race, then, run; your bat - tle done,
hearts o'er - flow - ing; and then shall we, from sin set free,



and we as con - qu'rors hold the field.
the crown of glo - ry will be won.
sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.



O Lord, o - pen my lips,



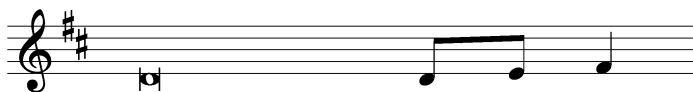
and my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Has - ten to save me, O God;



O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

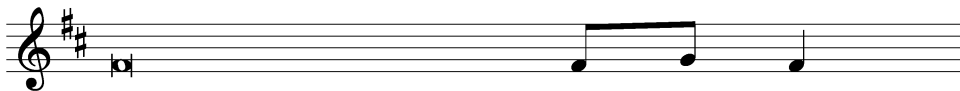


General Jesus Christ is Lord of all:

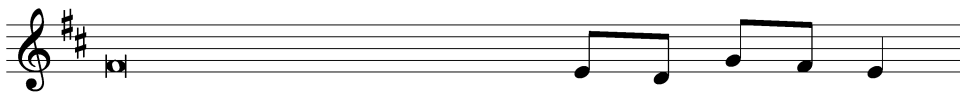


praise and thanks to God!

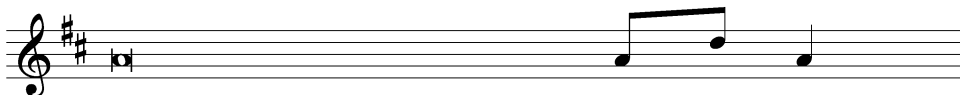
O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord



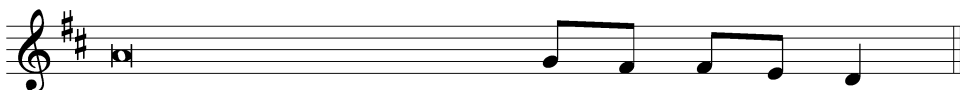
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great _____ God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made _____ it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry _____ land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow _____ down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his _____ hand.

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

The Lord pictures his patient love in a story about the owner of a vineyard.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 80 | V. 3–4

* 3 LORD, you cleared a plot of land, plant - ing there a
* 4 Rec - og - nize our deep dis - tress: LORD, your vine is
ten - der vine; there it spread its leaf - y boughs,
now laid waste; see the saints whom once you chose
there its fruit was lush and fine. Now that fruit, a -
now, at your re - buke, dis - graced. Let your call a -
ban - doned, falls; bro - ken are the vine - yard walls.
gain be known, claim your ser - vants as your own.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.

Tune: Joseph Parry
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Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12–21

God prompts us to respond to his grace by living differently from the enemies of the cross of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 21:33–43

Jesus tells the parable of the tenants to call leaders to repentance.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us steady in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known, for you are
3 O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and

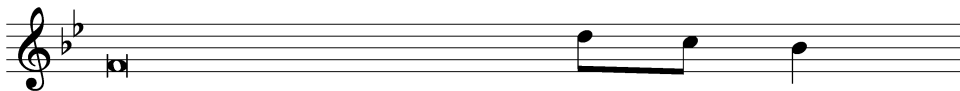
by deceit or sword would seek to overthrow your
Lord of lords alone; defend your Christendom that
u-ni-ty on earth; support us in our fi-nal

Son and to destroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg, Wittenberg, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

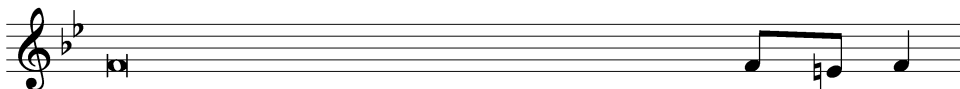
We Praise You, O God



- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
- 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise — you.



- 1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
- 2 heaven and earth are full — of your glo - ry.
- 3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



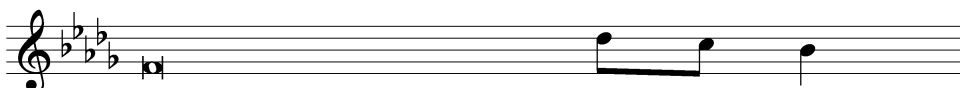
- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
- 2 The glorious company of apostles praise — you.
- 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



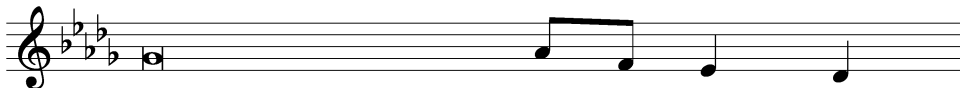
- 1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
- 2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise — you.
- 3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



- 5 When you became man to set us free,
- 6 You sit at the right hand of God



- 5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
- 6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.

5 You overcame the sting of death
6 We believe that you will come

5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.

7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,
7 bought with the price of your own blood,
7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

Offering

WELS Connection

Lord, Have Mercy

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and an - swer me.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

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.



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.



The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



A - men.

Closing Hymn

853 I'm But a Stranger Here



1 I'm but a stran - ger here, heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, heav'n is my home;



earth is a des - ert drear, heav'n is my home;
short is my pil - grim - age, heav'n is my home;
what - e'er my earth - ly lot, heav'n is my home;



dan - ger and sor - row stand round me on ev - 'ry hand;
and time's wild, win - try blast soon shall be o - ver - past;
and I shall sure - ly stand there at my Lord's right hand;



heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.
heav'n is my fa - ther - land, heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–1835, abr.
Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt

Organist: Ben Warmuth | **Elder:** Jerry Thompson

Altar Guild: Helen Hacht | **Projectionist:** Margie Smith

Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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