

THE TIME

IN BETWEEN



A TIME TO FOCUS ON FUTURE GLORY

All Saints' Day

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

November 5, 2023

SERIES THEME: THE TIME IN BETWEEN

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and the second time Christ will come to consummate his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. It is a time of tension. We know that peace and perfection are ours already because of what Jesus did the first time he came. Yet we do not enjoy a peaceful and perfect existence now already. We will not know such a life until Christ comes again. And so we wait and watch, living in the time in between. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

THEME OF THE DAY: A TIME TO FOCUS ON FUTURE GLORY

Childbearing is an excruciating process. Yet each day countless women, wanting a baby, willingly become pregnant. This shows that pain can be endured if we know it is temporary and that happier times come immediately after. Likewise, the time in between Christ's first and second coming are going to be full hardship, especially for believers. How do we bear it? We remember that this is temporary. Happier times are coming! That truth is made crystal clear on this All Saints' Day. On this day we remember every saint who has gone before us—all those who had faith in the Lamb of God: the heroes of faith in Scripture; our faithful Christian family members, now fallen asleep. They all endured hardship and pain. But no more. Now they enjoy perfect glory, peace, and joy. As we journey through this time in between, how do we endure? We remember all the saints. We focus on the future glory that waits for us.

Worship Leader
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Justin Wilkens
Timothy Richert

Acknowledgments

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The Service, Setting Two (page 172 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 837 When Will I Walk

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

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

CW 213

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



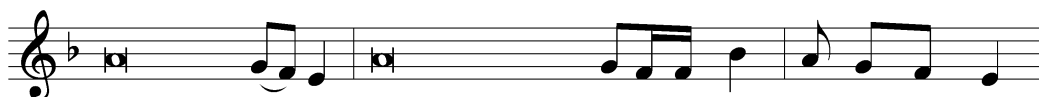
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



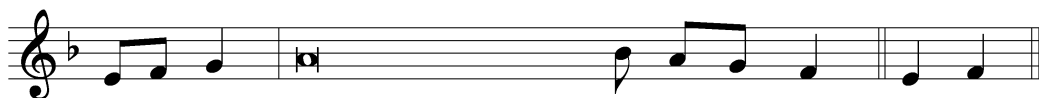
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together into one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow the example of your blessed saints in lives of faith and willing service and with them at last inherit the inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

St. John's vision lets us see all the saints in heaven so that we might remember the future glory that waits for us.

The Great Multitude in White Robes

⁹ After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They called out with a loud voice and said: Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

¹³ One of the elders spoke to me and said, "These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?"

And I answered him, "Sir, you know."

¹⁴ And he said to me:

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

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

the Lamb.

¹⁵ Because of this they are in front of the throne of God,
and they serve him day and night in his temple.

He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

¹⁶ They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.

The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: 149-Front of hymnal Sing to the LORD, Sing a New Song *Sts. 1-2*

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-3

In love God the Father adopted us as his children, making us heirs of future glory.

¹ See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The world does not know us, because it did not know him. ² Dear friends, we are children of God now, but what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he is revealed we will be like him, and we will see him as he really is. ³ Everyone who has this hope purifies himself just as Jesus is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 7:15



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



They are before the throne of God

Refrain



and serve him day and night in his temple.

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713578

Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

Sorrow, hardship, and persecution are temporary. Future glory and eternal blessings are coming, a gift from God to all his saints.

The Beatitudes

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,

because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,

because they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the gentle,

because they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

because they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,

because they will receive mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,

because they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,

because they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 881 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

Sermon: *Revelation 7:9-17*

Stand

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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

With grateful hearts, Lord,

We remember before you this day...

That great cloud of witnesses whose living trust in you, recorded in your Word, becomes an example for us to imitate and follow.

Inspire us as we remember them and grant us your blessing.

With grateful hearts, Lord,

We remember before you this day...

The reformers and confessors who faced the terror of church and empire but stood firm in your truth because they were moved by grace, empowered by faith, and guided by Scripture.

Inspire us as we remember them and grant us their courage.

With grateful hearts, Lord,

We remember before you this day...

Your faithful followers of every age—among them our parents and grandparents and our mentors and models—whom your Spirit called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified to be your holy Church and by whose faithful words and deeds the gospel of your grace arrived also to us.

Inspire us as we remember them and grant us their resolve.

With grateful hearts, Lord,

We remember before you this day...

Those we have known who endured uncommon handicaps, chronic illnesses, and severe hardships yet followed you in simple faith and lived their lives with patience and persistence.

Inspire us as we remember them and grant us their joy.

[We especially remember before you this day... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*]

With grateful hearts, Lord,

We remember before you this day...

Our own loved ones whose memories still burn within our hearts, whom you have called in your good time from their labors in life to that life which knows no end.

Inspire us as we remember them and grant us their reward.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Empower us, Lord, to carry on the work you gave to your people of the past, trusting your Son, holding to your Word, confessing your truth, loving the lost, reaching out with your love, until you call us, too, by your great grace in Jesus Christ, to join them where memories are swallowed up in everlasting joy.

Amen.

Offering

Offering Hymn: 883 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

st. 1

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through 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.

Hymn: 889 Jerusalem the Golden

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

Sunday: 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.bethelyork.com on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 62, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,854.90, Given \$2,365.25. **To God be the glory!**

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