

Sermon followed by Service - November 17, 2024 1 Peter 4:7-11

The clock is ticking. Time is about to run out. What do you do? Do you frenzy? “I’m not ready!” Or with the clock running out, do you “take a knee,” sit back and relax? When you hear Peter say: “**The end of all things is near**” - Do you frenzy? Do you sit back ready? Or do you just shrug - “no big deal, whatever.”

I should make it clear. When Peter says: “**The end of all things is near,**” that the clock is ticking and time is about to run out, Peter isn’t thinking movie time - you show up ten minutes late and you still have to sit through 15 minutes of sales pitch commercials. And Peter isn’t thinking modern church time - that missing the first hymn - when God greets us and we greet God and each other - that missing the confession of sins and absolution - our worship hour’s first deep, heart-to-heart talk with God - that missing and late is no big deal. No, Peter isn’t thinking that late is no big deal. Peter isn’t thinking that late is an option. Peter knows what will happen when Jesus returns - those who are ready Jesus will welcome into heaven; those who are not ready will find the door shut between them and heaven. And Peter knows what Jesus will say to those who aren’t ready when he returns - “**I don’t know you.**” Peter heard it real clear from Jesus himself - you better be ready when Jesus returns, or else “**I don’t know you.**”

Peter’s people seemed to know that. And Peter’s people knew what they could look forward to at “**the end of all things.**” Their Father in heaven had an inheritance for them - an inheritance that would never perish, spoil, or fade - an inheritance better than anything we could ever have or get in this world - an inheritance kept for them in heaven.

We know those same things, don't we? That's why we're here! We know this world is set for judgment, for destruction. And we know why - there is no one in this world who measures up to what God wants; instead there is everyone - including me - who undercuts what God wants. But we have been chosen and called to be culled out from the world and sanctified, chosen and called to be set apart from the world, set apart together with God, set apart for life with God in heaven. And we know why we get to have that hope; we know why we have that future reality. It's not because we haven't shrugged at God, or frenzied, or quit on God, or refused to run the play that he's called for us. No, we've done all those things. Instead, the reason we get to look forward to life with God is Jesus. He never shrugged at what God gave him to do. He never got distracted by this and that and then had to frenzy to get ready for God. He never

I almost said that Jesus never took a knee, but Jesus did take a knee in the Garden of Gethsemane, before he was arrested and killed. Jesus took a knee and prayed that he would do what his Father had for him to do; he took a knee and prayed that he would do what needed to be done. And then Jesus did it. He didn't walk off in the middle of God's play. He ran the play God called for him. He subbed in for you and for me, and he went to the cross. He paid for our shrugging and our frenzy and our quiet-quitting; he covered over our shrugging and frenzy and quiet-quitting by living the life God had for him all the way to the finish.

What does that mean for us? Remember Easter! And remember your baptisms! In your baptism, you are covered with Jesus and his life; in your baptism, you are connected to Jesus and his life, his death, his Easter. In your baptism, God sees you as he sees Jesus - right for life with him in heaven.

So why does Peter talk about the clock ticking, time about to run out, “**the end of all things is near**”? Not to frenzy us - “I’ve got to get ready.” Peter assumes we are already ready, that we’ve left the sin of our past to walk with Jesus. So Peter’s point isn’t “The end is coming; get ready!” No, Peter’s point is “The end is coming; finish strong!” Don’t shrug off the mission and ministry Jesus has for you. Don’t let yourself get frenzied by the world around you, distracted from your mission and ministry by the world around you. Don’t quiet-quit on the mission and ministry Jesus has for you. And don’t take a knee before the clock runs out.

The devil and the world won’t be taking a knee before the clock runs out; up until the last moment they will be looking to knock us on our backsides. They won’t quiet-quit and let us be. Up until the end, the devil and the world will be working to frenzy us distracted and dizzy with the world so we’re of no use to God.

Peter has a better life for us because God has a better life for us. Better than what? Better than living frenzied and distracted. Better than living knocked onto our backsides. Better than living of no use to God. As we heard in worship last week, we get to live as royal priests approved by God. As we heard in Family Bible Hour, we get live as the body of Christ. Think about how wonderful, how empowering that is!

What do you wish Jesus were doing more in this world? We wish there were more love in this world, more truth, don’t we? For the hurting hearts around us, we wish there were more healing and hope. For the stressed, for those needing help, we wish there were more helping. For the stressed and confused, we wish there were more Truth and understanding. For the wandering and the lost, we wish there were more finding and guiding. For the yous in the pews, I

wish there were more mes. For the mes, I wish there were more yous. Jesus wants that same thing. God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - wants that same thing. And what is God's favorite way to work those blessings? Not with a snap of the finger that leaves us watching from the sidelines. No, God's favorite way to share his heart and to work his blessings is through you.

That's not just a plan, an idea, that God has like so many of my plans and ideas - limping, gimping, frenzied and fried. That's the plan God is putting before us, before you and me. That's the plan God is powering and working through us, through you and me. And when God gives us his plan, his mission and ministry, he doesn't shrug with resignation: "We'll see what they do with this." No, as God sees what is going on in this world, he isn't shrugging and quiet-quitting. As he looks forward to Judgment Day and heaven, he isn't taking a knee and waiting for the clock to run out. When it comes to this world, when it comes to this church, there is no complacency or quit in God, only a sense of urgency. You hear that urgency in our lesson today - **"the end of all things is near."** You hear that urgency - **"If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."**

"If anyone speaks, speak as the very words of God" - Peter isn't talking about tone or force; Peter isn't telling us we get to impose our opinions on people as God's Word. Rather, when you speak God's word to forgive, his word of love, his promise of heaven ... when you speak his call to repent, his call to serve - you get to speak as if you are speaking the very words of God. In the same way, when you serve, you get to serve with the power God provides. Again, Peter isn't talking about force. Rather, instead of relying on our own

strength, we get to serve as if God himself is working his power through us, because he is.

So what do we do? We do like Jesus! Sure, with the end of all things near, we could live a distracted frenzy; we could quit because the God-lived life is hard; we could shrug because we think there's nothing we can do; we could take a knee because we think we've got it made. We could, but that kind of complacency has no place in Jesus' heart. So that kind of complacency has no place in Jesus' church. And that kind of complacency has no place in here [the Christian's heart]. Instead, seeing what this world needs, seeing the mission and ministry Jesus has for us, knowing the power and promise God has for us ... when we hear "**the end of all things is near,**" what do we hear? This is no time for complacency; it's time for urgency - with Jesus. Amen.

November 16 & 17, 2024

DIVINE SERVICE II

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... we are surrounded by people, some living in a distracted frenzy, some quitting because things aren't going their way, some taking a knee thinking they have it made. And it's no surprise we see those same attitudes infecting the church, is it?

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... our lessons address the spiritual complacency associated with distracted frenzy, quiet-quitting, and taking a knee too soon. When it comes to putting God's gifts to God's work, God hasn't called us to live a life of complacency, but a life of urgency!

OPENING HYMN

"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"

Hymn 716

O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and follow you,
forsaking old, familiar ways for ventures bold and new:
grant us to hear your call to risk security
and, bound in heart and will to you, find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for ages sealed,
whose words and works awakened faith, the ways of God revealed:
instruct us now, we pray, by your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd never trod
to serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim the nearer reign of God:
send us on ways where faith transcends timidity,
where love informs and hope sustains both life and ministry.

O Christ, th' _apostles' Lord, the martyrs' strength and song,
the crucified and risen King to whom the saints belong:
though generations pass, our tribute still we bring,
our hymns a sacrifice of praise, our lives an offering.

INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.**

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

I deserve to be cast away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: 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 (*Kyrie*)

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Peter 4:7-11

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 90C



1 We live, O Lord, with - in your grace, for you have
 2 A thou - sand years with - in your sight pass like a
 3 You say to chil - dren of the earth: "Re - turn to
 4 The fu - ry of your wrath dis - may! Your light our



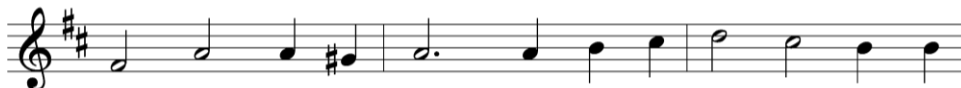
been our dwell - ing place; be - fore the moun - tains came to
 watch with - in the night, like yes - ter - day when it is
 dust, which gave you birth!" We grow like grass be - neath the
 se - cret sin dis - plays! Our years are mea - sured by our



be, you are true God e - ter - nal - ly.
 through, the brief - est blink in all you view.
 sun, but with - er when our day is done.
 strength, yet toil and trou - ble is their length!



5 So teach us, Lord, to count our days; make wise our
 6 Your stead - fast love will sat - is - fy and be our
 7 Lord, let your work to us be shown, your glo - ry
 8 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, be our dwell - ing



hearts to seek your ways. How long, O LORD, till you re -
 joy un - til we die. Though e - vil days may grieve our
 by our chil - dren known. Your fa - vor rest on us each
 place e - ter - nal - ly, and when the moun - tains are no



turn? How much, O LORD, for you we yearn!
 soul, we trust that you will make us whole.
 day; es - tab - lish all our work, we pray.
 more, your name we ev - er will a - dore!

SECOND READING*Romans 12:1–8*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*1 Peter 1:13*

Alleluia. Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. Alleluia.

GOSPEL*Luke 13:6–9*

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Hymn 695

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

SERMON

1 Peter 4:7-11

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.

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father gather and guide it so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility:

Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our pastors and teachers and all leaders of the Church, and for all the people of God:

Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all who serve you and your people. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church. Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way to salvation:

Almighty and eternal god, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the gospel. Help us, your Church, to grow in love for you and for one another, so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom:

Almighty and eternal God, graciously direct those who have been set in positions of authority among us, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, and free those unjustly deprived of liberty:

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. In your mercy hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)

(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: 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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in 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 *Sanctus*

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.**

**Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,
And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei* (Sung)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord"

Hymn 661

Draw near and take the body of your Lord,
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
Saved by his body and his holy blood,
with souls refreshed we give our thanks to God.

Christ our Redeemer, God's eternal Son,
has by his cross and blood the vict'ry won.
He gave his life for greatest and for least,
himself the off'ring and himself the priest.

Let us approach with faithful hearts sincere
and take the pledges of salvation here.
Christ, who in this life all the saints defends,
gives all believers life that never ends.

With heav'nly bread he makes the hungry whole,
gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
Lord of the nations, to whom all must bow,
in this great feast of love be with us now.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: 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

"Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

Hymn 748

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly give to God our all, our best:
service hearty, thorough, honest, with a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving, all our time to him belong;
praise him, then, with true devotion, come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, by the gift of Christ, his Son,
what great goodness he has shown us, what high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely, yield our bodies and our souls,
thankful that his love protects us, that his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service for the sake of Christ, your Son;
lo, our hope abides now only in the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us, help and guide us, watch to comfort and restore,
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, praising you forevermore.

Join Us This Holiday Season!

Christmas Tree Decorating Party

Sunday, December 1, after Family Bible Hour

With your help, we will:

- decorate our Christmas tree
- set out our manger scenes (Inside and Outside)
- string out the garland
- prepare our Christmas invitations for mailing

After we decorate and mail, we pizza!

Advent Wednesdays

December 4, 11, & 18 – 3:30 and 6:30 pm

Advent Dinners at 4:30 pm

Women’s Christmas Party

Sunday, December 8 – 2 pm

Piano Recital

Tuesday, December 10 – 6:30 pm

Christmas HouseWalk

Saturday, December 14 – 4 pm

Children’s Christmas Service

Sunday, December 15 – 3 pm

All German Christmas Song Service and Fellowship Meal

Sunday, December 22 – 4:30 pm

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 100 W. Michigan Ave, Palatine, IL

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5 pm

Christmas Day Festival Service - 9 am

New Year’s Eve Service/Lord’s Supper - 5 pm

Join us for our annual Game Night after the service!