

Sermon followed by Service

November 24, 2024

1 Peter (select verses)

Two Christmases ago, a friend gave Lisa and I a special Christmas gift. It's a doomsday, "end of the world as you know it" emergency and disaster kit. It has most everything a person could need for an end of the world disaster or emergency. The one thing that seems to be missing is "a piece," "protection," a gun. And that's probably OK because I'd kind of like to keep my toes.

It's interesting, isn't it? In a time and place where fewer and fewer people are preparing for Judgment Day, more and more people are preparing for a doomsday. I'm not suggesting it's a bad idea to be ready for something of a doomsday. I'm sure I should be doing something more than I'm doing to take care of me and my wife in case of a doomsday disaster.

But I think it's interesting that as Peter faces his people to the end of the world, he doesn't tell them to get ready for a someday doomsday. Instead, he tells them how to live for today, for a today surrounded by a doomed people living in a doomed world.

What do we need as we live surrounded by doomed people living in a doomed world?

What do the doomed people around us need as they live in a doomed world?

“Living in a doomed world.” That sounds dark, doesn’t it? In many ways Peter and his people were living a dark life in a doomed world. I won’t say that Peter’s world necessarily saw themselves living a doomed life in a doomed world. In many ways, Peter’s world was like our world. Like today, people lived in a state of denial (“I can do what I want, be what I want.”) Like today, people numbed themselves and distracted themselves with drinking and drugs, parties and sex; if they would have had cell phones and social media, they would have numbed themselves and distracted themselves like we do today. Like people today, they bounced back and forth between numbing their hearts and minds and distracting their hearts and minds - all to avoid the truth - the truth of their empty, doomed lives without God - “the soul that sins, it shall die.”

How do people today seek to deny (or hide from) the emptiness of their lives? How do people today seek to deny (or hide from) the doom of this world? How do people seek to deny the judgment of God?

That was the world in which Peter’s people lived. At times, Peter’s people were tempted to join the world in numbing themselves, in distracting themselves, in living the empty, doomed life of the world. We know how that works, don’t we?

But most of the time, Peter’s people lived as strangers, outsiders, put off and put out as strange. They were stepped on and pushed around, mocked and ridiculed. Why? because they wouldn’t join the world in its sin. Peter tells us they were abused by the world. Why? Because for the sake of Jesus, they refused

to live the life of the world. We might expect Peter to tell his people to circle the wagons, to hunker down and bunker down, to fight for their rights and to look out for themselves.

In what ways have you experienced the world treating you as a stranger (or worse) because of Jesus?

When we're attacked because we live the life Jesus has for us, how might we be tempted to hunker and bunker down, to fight for our rights, to look out for ourselves?

If we're never treated as strangers for our life with Jesus, why might that be?

Peter doesn't do that. Peter doesn't set his people up to live a life of fear; he doesn't set them up to live a life of self-preservation. Instead, instead of living a life of fear, instead of looking out for themselves, Peter encourages his people to live a life of love. Peter's people needed that. As strangers scattered and alone in the world, Peter's people needed each other to be looking out for each other. They already had the world putting them off as strange and wrong, they didn't need their church family doing the same thing. They already had the world making them hurt, they didn't need their church family doing the same thing. They already had the world tempting them, they didn't need their church family doing the same thing. In a world where they felt strange and out of place, they needed their church family to include them as family. In a world knocking them down, they needed their church family picking them up. In a world darkening their hearts, they needed their church family shining

some light into their lives. So again and again, Peter encourages his people to love each other.

How (what) do we do as a church family to provide a safe and caring family our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?

How (what) could we do better?

Not just for themselves. Not just for their own. Peter didn't tell his people to hunker down, bunker down, circle the wagons, and turn their backs on the world. No, Peter encourages his people to engage the world, to show the world the love God was working in them, to share with the world the love God was working in them. Yes, show goodness and love to those people who were pushing them off and putting them down. Yes, show goodness and love to those people who were taking advantage of them. Yes, show goodness and love to those people living a life of sin.

Remember, Peter isn't just some guy preaching "love the world" but has never faced the world. This is the Peter who pulled out his sword when Jesus was being arrested, and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. This is the Peter who was thrown into prison and worse for preaching about Jesus. This is a Peter who had been bloodied and beaten for following Jesus. And what does this Peter encourage? Show goodness and love to the people who ridicule you because of Jesus. Show goodness and love to the people who take advantage of you because of Jesus. Show goodness and love to those who flaunt their sin and try to push their sin onto you.

*Why is this kind of goodness and love so difficult?
What helps you to show this kind of goodness and love?*

Why? To shut their mouths. **“For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.”** Now Peter doesn’t promise that our goodness and love will shut the mouths of those badmouthing us. Your goodness and love just might make some people mouth off even more against you and Jesus. But Peter is no pessimist either. He’s not just thinking with the small hope that our goodness and love might shut up our enemies, he’s thinking with the bigger, better hope that our goodness and love just might open up the hearts and mouths of the Christ-less to praise God. **“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”**

How? How can we live a life of goodness and love when we’re feeling put off and out of place? How can we live a life of goodness and love when we’re being stepped on and pushed around? How can we live a life of goodness and love when life in this world has us tired and worn down, hurting and maybe feeling a bit hopeless?

Peter reminds us who we are. It doesn’t matter if the world treats us as strangers and worse. It doesn’t matter if we feel out of place. We’re not the world living empty, hopeless lives. We’re not who we were, sinners with the rest of the world, doomed to damnation. We are the chosen of God, chosen for life

with him in heaven. We are called by God, called for life with him. And I'll say it again - it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if we have lived the empty life of the world; it doesn't matter if we have sinned the godless sin of the world. You are forgiven in the blood of Jesus, forgiven and right for life with God. That means today, you have the Good Shepherd looking out for you. And it means that you have heaven ahead of you.

Let me say it again - It doesn't matter what you have in your past. It doesn't matter how the world treats you. You are the chosen of God; you have Jesus as your Good Shepherd today, and you have heaven in your future forever.

Oh, that is so good to hear, isn't it? And it is so good to live! Instead of living the life of the world, we get to live the life God has for us - a life of love for each other, a life of love for the world; a life of serving each other, a life of serving in the world - a life filled and overflowing with the love of Jesus, a life filled and overflowing with the hope of heaven. What does that mean? Not only are you a people ready for Judgment Day, you are the people this world needs in its dark days of doom. Amen.

November 23 & 24, 2024

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

IN OUR WORLD TODAY ... more and more are preparing for an “end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it” existence by looking out with emergency kits, stockpiles of food, bunkers, and “protection” - for self.

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... Peter encourages of us for an “end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it” life - set your heart and hope on heaven, and show God’s heart and promise by living a life of holiness and love - for others.

OPENING HYMN

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Hymn 729

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.

Bind us all as one together in your Church’s sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope’s fruition: here on earth your will be done.

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.

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.

FIRST READING

1 Peter 1:3–5, 22; 2:1; 3:8–12; 4:7–

10

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection

of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For,

“Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil
and their lips from deceitful speech.
They must turn from evil and do good;
they must seek peace and pursue it.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

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.

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

WE LIVE LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEW START IN HEAVEN

A Saints Triumphant Confession of Faith: A Reading of Promises Fulfilled

M: I am resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;

C: **And whoever lives and believes in me will never die.** (*John 11:25-26*)

Bruce Schmidt December 31, 2023

M: My flesh and my heart may fail,

C: **but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.** (*Psalms 73:26*)

Valerie Schlosser February 5, 2024

M: For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.
If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

C: **So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.** (*Romans 14:7-8*)

Terry Appelt February 28, 2024

M: I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

C: **And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

Hannelore Grimes October 20, 2024

M: Be faithful, even to the point of death.

C: **And I will give you the crown of life.** (*Revelation 2:10*)

Molly DaValle October 21, 2024

M: Thanks be to God.

C: **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Peter 5:10–11

M: And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

EXPLANATION TO THE SECOND ARTICLE (REDEMPTION)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with

gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

HYMN

“Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See”

Hymn 884

Lord, when your glory I shall see and taste your kingdom’s pleasure,
your blood my royal robe shall be, my joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne, your righteousness shall be my crown;
with these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought,
as your own bride I shall be brought, to stand in joy beside you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31–

46

John 15:15–21;

16:33

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to

eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Church, Arise"

Hymn 870

O Church, arise and put your armor on; hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold whose battle cry is love, reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war—to love the captive soul, but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole

we will fight with faith and valor.

When faced with trials on ev'ry side, we know the outcome is secure,
and Christ will have the prize for which he died—an inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet, for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, and Christ emerges from the grave,
this vict'ry march continues till the day ev'ry eye and heart shall see him.

So Spirit come, put strength in ev'ry stride, give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way, retelling triumphs of his grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day
when with Christ we stand in glory.

SERMON

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.

TODAY'S OFFERING

Today you are invited to bring forward as a gift to your Lord both your offering and your Holes and Roles Time and Talent Surveys. Some of you have already turned yours in - thank you! Feel free to participate with another copy - perhaps with a note - "I'm already in!"

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.



CHOIR SONG

"My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"

Hymn 626

*My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who bore my pain,
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again,
who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me in his light
and wrote his law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who walks beside,
who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly,
whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take,
sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.*

*My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above,
whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him, to love and follow him.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief.

Spare us, Lord, from the lies of the devil and the attacks of our conscience.
Comfort and save us in your patient compassion.

Have mercy on us, Jesus.

Guide us, Lord, to the wisdom of your Word and the power of your promises. Take away our confusion and doubt. **Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Hear us, Lord, when we come to you in prayer. Make us confident to take you at your word and to follow you in faith. **Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Empower us, Lord, to walk in your ways and live in your truth. Fill us with your love, that we may love you and one another. **Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified. Receive our prayers for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocations and ministries they may truly serve and honor you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

1 Peter 5:10–11

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Jerusalem the Golden"

Hymn 889

Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—
the sight of it refreshes the weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare:

to sing the hymn unending with all the martyr throng,
amidst the halls of Zion resounding full with song.

O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect,
where they who with their leader have conquered in the fight
forever and forever are clad in robes of white:
in mercy, Jesus, bring us to that dear land of rest
where sings the host of heaven your glorious name to bless.

The Christ is ever with them, the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed are ever rich and green.
There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast.
To God enthroned in glory the Church's voices blend,
the Lamb forever blessed, the Light that knows no end.

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WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us, Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. for our Annual Women of St. John Christmas Party! More details to come, but all women are welcome; bring your unchurched friend whom you are looking to connect with St. John and Jesus!

CHRISTMAS PIANO RECITAL

Tuesday evening, December 10, the student pianists of St. John will host a recital in the St. John sanctuary. The music begins at 6:30 p.m. All church and school families of St. John are welcome to attend!

CHRISTMAS HOUSEWALK – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 - AT 4 P.M.

Join us for a Christmas HouseWalk on Saturday, December 14, starting at 4 PM. We'll enjoy soup and salad, appetizers, and desserts, but mostly each other, at three or four different Christmas-decorated houses. Space is limited to 30-35 adults (no children). We'll have a \$5 reservation fee. For more info and to sign up, contact Sheryl.

ALL GERMAN CHRISTMAS SONG SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER

You're Invited! Sunday, December 22, 4:30 p.m., with dinner following the service.

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

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

Grab your calendar and save the date, February 1, 2025, for a marriage retreat at St. John. We plan to meet from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. with 3 breakout sessions, and a catered lunch! We are looking for help with child care and plan to pay those who assist. More info to come, stay tuned to News and Reminders. If you would like to help organize the event, talk with Holly and Charles Ledvina. To register, scan the QR code.



Join Us This Holiday Season!

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 27 – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Decorating Party

Sunday, December 1, after Family Bible Hour

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!