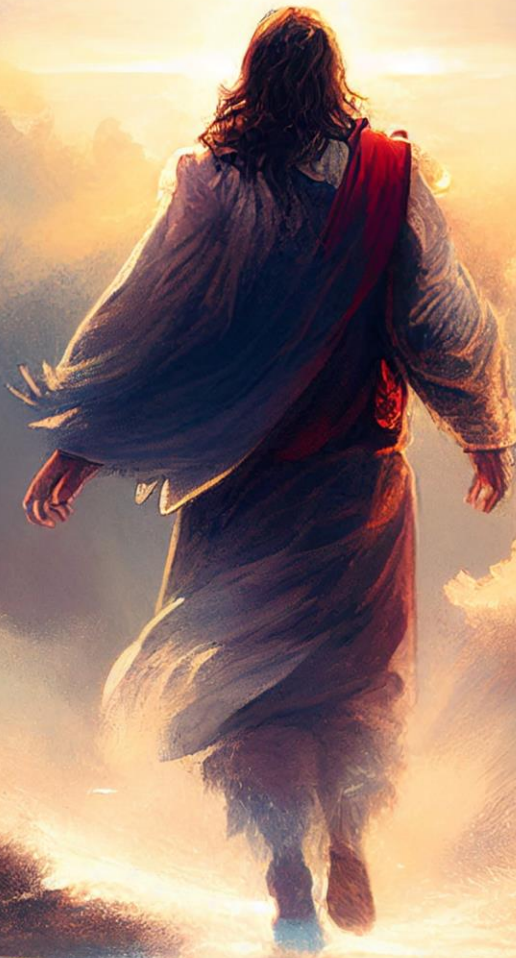


LIVE WITH YOUR EYES ON THE SKIES





IN THE NAME OF JESUS

THE THEME OF OUR WORSHIP:

Live Like You'll Live Forever: with your eyes on the skies. "Eyes on the prize."

That axiom stresses that when pursuing some good goal...focus is important. You don't want distractions of a lack of self-discipline to keep you from obtaining whatever that prize might be. The prize that we want most is spending eternity with Jesus. As the Church Year comes to a close, Jesus promises that he will come again *"in clouds with great power and glory"* to give us the prize. That prize will be so unbelievably good...it is worth fixating on. Let us be ready. Let us keep watch. Let us live with our eyes on the skies.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. At St. Paul's, you will find a worship service designed to praise God and increase people's faith. While all styles of worship take some getting used to, we hope you will find that the main message – the unconditional love Jesus has for us – comes through clearly.

PARTICIPATE. Many parts of our worship service are interactive. Feel free to sing along with the hymns and songs. There are also times in the service when Pastor and congregation speak back and forth. Please join together as you feel comfortable.

PARAMENTS. In Lutheran churches you often see paraments. These are the colored cloths with symbols on them hanging from the altar and pulpit. They change with the church seasons and celebrations as a visual reminder of what we are celebrating in our worship. The color for the last Sunday of the church year is white, reminding you of the glory and perfection of Christ and heaven (where his throne is). Today's celebration is one of the pinnacles of the Church's year – what better thing to celebrate than the fact that Christ is King! When you come to worship next Sunday a new Church year will begin with the First Sunday in Advent.

PERSONAL CONVENIENCES. For your convenience, restrooms are located in the southwest corner of the narthex across from the entrance into the sanctuary...feel free to ask for directions. Cell phones should be turned off or put on vibrate mode so as not to disrupt others during the service. Thank you for your cooperation.

To help you focus while you join us for worship, take the time to eliminate as many distractions around you as possible. We may be separated by in-person or livestream worship, but we can connect with each other here for Christian support and encouragement.

WORSHIP NOTES

LAST SUNDAYS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The Church Year comes to a close in October and November. On these Sundays, we talk about the end of time. Scripture makes it clear that when Jesus comes again, he will not be bringing salvation like the first time. He will be bringing the angels and fire to destroy the universe. These Sundays allow you the opportunity to focus on the fact that life on earth doesn't go on and on. It comes to an end...either in death or on Judgment Day. And yet...this need not scare Christian believers. For a believer the end of his life or the end of this world is a wonderful thing! It means the beginning of a new and better existence...in a much more glorious world than this one.

"Live each day like it's your last." You have probably heard that advice. It sounds wise...an encouragement to take advantage of the time you have. However, that advice is completely backwards. Because the reality is...thanks to Jesus...we have an unending amount of time. Let that sink in. *Really* think about it. Jesus has given you the gift of eternal life. You are going to live forever.

If you really thought it was your last day...that belief would shape how you lived that day. In this series...let us consider how the gift of eternal life shapes how we live each day. *Live like you'll live forever!* Our worship will follow this pattern:



LIVE LIKE YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER

The Festival of the Reformation	<i>... Live Confessing Your Faith with Courage</i>
All Saints' Day	<i>... Live Knowing Life Only Gets Better</i>
25 th Sunday after Pentecost	<i>... Live Offering Everything to the Lord</i>
26 th Sunday after Pentecost	<i>... Live Free from the Fear of Judgment</i>
Last Sunday of the Church Year	<i>... Live with Your Eyes on the Skies</i>

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



CONFESSION OF SINS (INCORPORATING HYMN 802)

The road of life often feels heavy with disappointments, failures, and fears. Yet we live with the assurance of God's great love, which shines even in the darkest moments. Let us confess our sins, knowing he hears, forgives, and restores us through his Son.

Gracious God, we come before you burdened by our sins. We have doubted your promises, turned our eyes away from your glory, and sought comfort in fleeting things. Forgive us for our lack of faith, our selfish actions, and our failure to trust your plan.

Soloist: The sun beams on behind the clouds
and in the dark still grace abounds;
all is well because of God's great love.
The road of disappointment runs
where unseen mercies wait for us,
and all is well because of God's great love.

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, knows our every weakness and intercedes for us before the throne of grace. Trusting in his faithful promises, let us confess our sins together:

Merciful Father, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to live with hope, turning instead to worry and fear. Yet we cling to your mercy and grace. Forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us to live in the light of your love.

Soloist (Refrain): How brightly shines the love of the Father
in our Savior, Jesus Christ.
With faithful hands he fulfills ev'ry promise;
he will never leave our side.

Hear these words of comfort:
Our Savior feels our weakness and knows our needs.
He bore our sins on the cross and rose again to secure our salvation.
Because of his great love, we are forgiven.



2 He feels our weak - ness, knows our need, and
for our good he in - ter - cedes; all is well be-cause of
God's great love. Through ev - 'ry fail - ure, ev - 'ry
fear, the Lord of com - fort draws us near, and all is
well be-cause of God's great love.

Refrain



How bright - ly shines the love of the Fa - ther in our Sav - ior,



Je - sus Christ. With faith - ful hands he ful - fills ev - 'ry



prom - ise; he will nev - er leave our side.

Text: Vikki Cook, b. 1960; Steve Cook, b. 1958

Tune: Vikki Cook, b. 1960; Steve Cook, b. 1958

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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.



3 His com - ing soon will fill the sky and



all that's wrong will be made right; with



new - born eyes we will be - hold the glo - ry of the ris - en

Lord. All will be well be-cause of God's great love;
 yes, all is well be-cause of God's great love. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:4-6

What God promises is solid and lasting. We may look around and see impressive things in the heavens above and on earth below. There may be mountains or monuments so solid...galaxies so vast...populations so immense. Those will wear out, the Lord says. But...in Isaiah's words..."My salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail" (verse 6). We have reason to wait expectantly for the Lord.

⁴“Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:
Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the nations.
⁵My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.
The islands will look to me
and wait in hope for my arm.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail.

SECOND READING

Jude 20-25

The final verses of Jude's letter tell us how we...as God's people...can protect ourselves from the false teachers who are bound to come as the Last Day approaches. Empowered by the Holy Spirit...we are able to remain close to God and grow in our faith as we immerse ourselves in the means of God's grace (gospel in Word and sacraments) by which he strengthens our faith. Jude encourages us to wait expectantly for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁰But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

²²Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

²⁴To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia.

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia. - *Matthew 24:42*



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending | 487



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee



once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at naught and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

swell the tri - umph of his train:
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ re - veals his end - less reign.
wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture, gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Mark 13:26-37

“You are in the Middle”

CONNECT

We would kindly ask everyone to fill out a *Connect Card* now. If you are worshipping with us virtually, we kindly ask that you also fill out a digital *Connect Card*. What will be the “next steps” you can take as a response to the message you have heard today? You can also let us know how we can pray for you or ask for more information on one of the ministries or programs we are offering. Thank you!



OFFERING

If you're visiting today...we're glad to have you as our guest. Please don't feel any obligation to participate in this part of the service. In fact...we hope you'll consider this service our gift to you! This offering is an opportunity for those of us who are regular attenders to invest tangibly in what God is doing here. If you do wish to give an offering...please feel free to do so.

Giving Options:

- ◆ Scan the QR code to the right.
- ◆ give your gift [online](#).
- ◆ via text message: text "GIVE" to 877.492.5452 and follow the text instructions.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Prayer of the Church is one of the three responses to the Word that worshippers have heard in the readings and sermon. We respond with faith (speaking the Creed), with offerings, and with prayer. In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do the work of priests, making intercession for themselves...for others...and for the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

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 preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



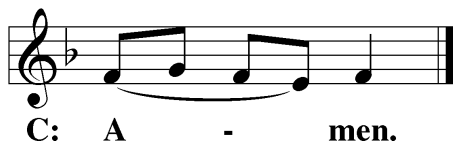
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

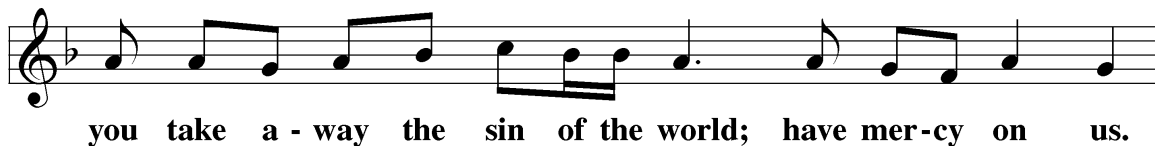
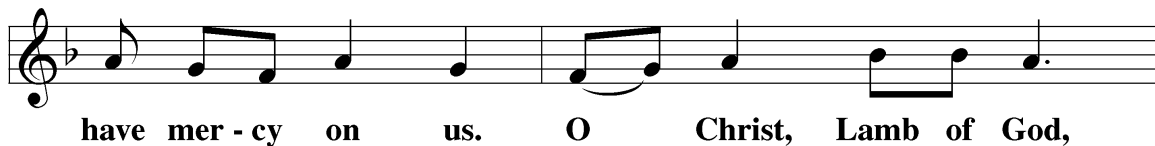
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Through the Apostle Paul Jesus tells us that celebrating the Lord's Supper is an expression of our unity with him and with the others who partake in this meal (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). He also says, "So, then whoever eats of the bread and drinks of the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). For these reasons, St. Paul's practices close communion with those united to us in beliefs and church membership. We welcome confirmed members of the WELS and ELS to the Lord's Table. We ask that you speak with one of our pastors before taking the Lord's Supper. They are eager to meet with you. We thank you kindly. And greatly look forward to celebrating the Lord's Supper with you. In preparation for communing today...you may use the questions found on pp.295-296 in the blue hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Take and Eat | 676

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y



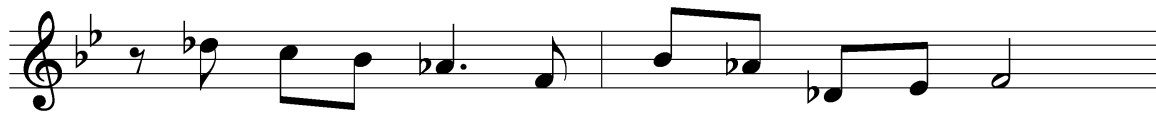
giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,



this is my blood giv - en up for you.



- 1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
- 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
- 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
- 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;



I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day;
 a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 you are my flock: you know the shep - herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;



Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

5 I am the light that came into the world;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets;
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)

6 I am the first and last, the Living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (Refrain)

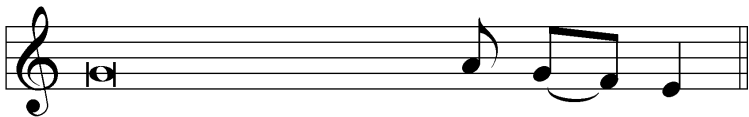
Text (sts. 1-6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010; (Ref): Michael Joncas, b. 1951
Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951
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SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

HYMN OF DEPARTURE

Preserve Your Word, O Savior | 874



1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter
 2 Pre - serve your Word and preach - ing, the truth that makes us
 3 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest your storm-tossed lit - tle



day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your
 whole, the mir - ror of your glo - ry, the pow'r that
 flock; as - sailed by wind and weath - er, may it en -



Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep
 saves the soul. Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, this
 dure each shock. Come take the helm, our pi - lot, and



hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us
 spring of heav'n - ly grace, sus - tain us while here
 set the course a - right; then we will reach the



from you while wan-d'ring here be - low.
 liv - ing un - til we see your face.
 har - bor in your e - ter - nal light.

Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891-1976, alt.; Andreas Gryphius, 1616-1664, abr.
 Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532-c. 1601
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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PRESIDING MINISTER: Pastor Brian Pechman

SERVICE ACCOMPANISTS: Dawn Johnson

SOLOIST: Bev Gumm

ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Nack, Lisa Specht, Rachel Rehbein, Christina Sprenger

USHERS: 8:00a – Jeremy Pieper, Josh Pieper, Jason Pieper, Jon Pieper, Paul Holzwart

10:30a – Eric Vant Hul, Loren Reinemann, Mark Kolosovsky, Brad Tinker, Derek Grunwald

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

- ◆ Our St. Paul's family who are dealing with various health issues

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