

³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Sermon Hymn: 2 Savior of the Nations, Come

Sermon: Prepared for What’s Next

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Hymn: 11 Comfort, Comfort, All My People

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 472 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

Ushers: This Week – Russ Schuld & Justin Draeger
Next Week – Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow

Greeters: This Week – Rose Henning & Arlene Borchardt
Next Week – Frank & Sue Kramer

The new greeter and usher schedules are being worked on. Please let Kelly Vogel or Pastor Swanson know if you would like to be added or removed.

1st Week of Advent – Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Judy Acker

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: p 38

Opening Hymn: 23 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Prayer of the Day:

M: *Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.*

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 2:1-5

The first chapter of Isaiah does not paint a pretty picture of Judah and Jerusalem. "Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption" (Isaiah 1:4). But today's lesson from chapter two shows a completely different picture. Here one sees the glorious destiny that awaits her. In the last days, in the midst of the unexpected judgement, God comes with unexpected grace for his people. The people of chapter one are changed forever. In the coming kingdom many will say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD." In the coming kingdom, God will teach the people his ways so that they walk in his paths. The coming of Christ defines our present time. We are at the doorstep of the impending age of the kingdom come. We join with Isaiah in living our lives in view of Christ's unexpected coming: "Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD!"

The Mountain of the Lord

2 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁵ Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 18, p. 69

Second Lesson - Romans 13:11-14

Understanding the present time means working and walking in love. We do this, Paul says, because the coming of our Lord is near. Notice the words he choose: nearer, nearly, almost. The certainty of Christ's coming is never in question, only his timing. Paul encourages us to let the nearness of the kingdom and the unexpected nature of its arrival define our present time. At the very end of the night, Venus rises above the horizon and reflects the brightness of the coming dawn, promising that the day is nearly here. Christ Jesus is our Morning Star, the harbinger of God's coming kingdom. It's almost here! We let that define our present time by living as citizens of the kingdom now. It is not easy to live as in daylight while it's still dark. So Paul tells us to clothe ourselves with the only thing that will give us the power to do it: Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Verse of the Day: *Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20).*

Gospel - Matthew 24:37-44

So unexpected is the coming of Christ, that neither the Church, nor the angels, nor even the Son knows the day or the time. Warnings are spoken; promises are made; signs are given. But the great day will come as unexpectedly as the deluge upon the unsuspecting world. Noah had preached; Noah had built; but the world was lost in darkness of spiritual blindness. The certainty of Christ's coming is never in question – only the timing. So Christ tells us to keep watch and to be ready, actions that define our present time.