

Worship Plan - Church Year C 2021-2022



11/13/2022 - Proper 28

SERIES THEME

THE LAST DAY

Certain days mean different things to different people. Next June 10th might mean nothing to you... or... it might be the day you get married. Mother's Day can be a day of great joy to the woman with three children, all of whom profess their love and appreciation on that day. That same day can be extremely painful for the woman who has never been able to have children. Certain days mean different things to different people.

That will be most true on the Last Day. On his calendar, God has written in ink the day when Jesus will return to "judge the living and the dead" (Apostles' Creed). In the final weeks of the church year it is natural for us to think about that Last Day and what it means. The Last Day will mean very different things to different people.

THEME OF THE DAY

A DAY OF TERROR FOR ALL THOSE WHO TROUBLED GOD'S PEOPLE

Our world is full of victims of abuse, violence, and oppression. In many cases, this evil goes unnoticed or unpunished. Injustice can drive victims in two possible directions. They can be filled with despair over the unfairness of the situation. Or they can be filled with hatred and a desire for revenge. While Christians wait for Christ's return on the Last Day, they are by no means the only ones who suffer at the hands of others. They are, however, often included among them. Believers have always faced opposition from a world who rejects the one we believe in. When we suffer, what are our options? Do we throw up our hands in despair? Do we take matters into our own hands and seek vengeance? The certainty of that Last Day gives us a better option. We can leave justice up to the Judge. We can be confident that on the Last Day every wrong will be righted. We can look forward to the Last Day—also known as Judgment Day—because we are confident of where we stand with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING

Malachi 4:1-6 – On the Last Day, those who opposed God will be laid low, but all God's people will be healed.

SECOND READING

*** 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 – God promises that on the Last Day all those who troubled his holy people will themselves be eternally troubled.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19 – Jesus tells us what the world will be like for believers before the Last Day.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Setting 4

Ambitious:

Setting 3 with new GA and proper verse

Opening Hymn:

495 - The King Shall Come

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 98A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (Revelation 2:10)

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 4

Setting 3

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 24-29

Hymn of the Day:

488 - The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

809 - Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

Closing Hymn:

924 - Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

802 - All Is Well - requires introduction; congregation can pick up on refrain pretty quickly

Notes for the conservative service:

Notes for the ambitious service:

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11/20/2022 - Last Sunday of Church Year

SERIES THEME

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THEME OF THE DAY

A DAY OF DELIVERANCE WHICH GOD'S PEOPLE EAGERLY AWAIT

Jesus promised, "I am coming soon" (Second Reading). But what does soon mean to the one who is the Alpha and Omega, the eternal God? We do not know. We want Christ to return quickly, because we know the Last Day will be a day of great deliverance for God's people. But how long will we have to wait? Will it be in a few months or a few millennia? We cannot know.

As we await Christ's return, we want to avoid two extremes: impatience and indifference. Let us not despair if the deliverance of the Last Day does not come as quickly as we would like. But let us never doubt that that deliverance will indeed come. How do we avoid those extremes? How does Christ's church remain ready and watchful? In this last week of the Church Year, our Savior does what he has done all year—point us to his Scriptures. The Scriptures record countless promises that have already been fulfilled in Christ. That assures us that the as-of-yet unfulfilled promises are as good as done. There is no doubting that the Last Day will come. There is no doubting it will be a day of blessed deliverance for God's people.

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:1-3;2:1-4 – Like we are, Habakkuk was waiting for the LORD to act. God promised that he would act, and he had his prophet put that promise in writing.

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:6-13 – Jesus will return soon. When he does, the reward he won for mankind will be in his hand.

GOSPEL

*** Luke 12:35-40 – Jesus urges us to remain ready for his return at all times.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Conservative:

Setting 4

Ambitious:

Setting 3 with new GA and proper verse

Opening Hymn:

486 - Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Psalm of the Day:

Psalm 130A

Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:

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

Gospel Acclamation setting:

Setting 4

Setting 3

or

Additional Settings

Sets 1 or 2 for Propers 24-29

Hymn of the Day:

487 - Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:

*559 - If Your Beloved Son, O God

Closing Hymn:

850 - It Is Well with My Soul

Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:

Notes for the conservative service:

Notes for the ambitious service: