

November 2025

The end of November ushers in with it not only turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie but also the end of the church year. With the end of the church year, we hear in the Divine Service about our Lord Jesus returning. I'm often asked concerning our Lord's return, "Pastor, with all the stuff happening on the world, do you think the last days are upon us?"

My answer is always yes. It is always yes because this what the Bible teaches - that we are living in the last days, in the time between the Ascension of Jesus and His return. It is usually out of genuine curiosity that I get the question yet I'm not sure if my answer makes any difference to those who ask. But Jesus and the apostles guide us to recognize that we are in the last days so that we would be ready for when our Lord returns, to not save repentance and faith in Jesus for another day, because no one knows the day or the hour of His return. (Matt. 24:36).

Here are a few passages for you to consider:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son. (Heb. 1:1-2)

Children, it is the last hour... (1 John 2:18)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God... (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

The church has always considered itself living in the last days, not knowing when the Lord will return, which gives shape, then, to how the life of faith should be lived out day by day.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25)

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. (1 Thess. 5:4-6)

Now is the day of salvation. (2 Cor. 6:2)

This is all done in the confidence that at the final day our Lord Jesus will deliver us finally from all evil, to be in bliss with Him in eternal life. So, we live each day with a strong faith in Christ, not in fear of being caught off guard when He returns. We see the signs all around us that things are broken (that list in 2 Timothy sounds familiar) and we encourage one another to hold fast to our Lord, stay awake by gathering and receiving His gifts at church, and know to *straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)*

Come, Lord Jesus!
- Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTE

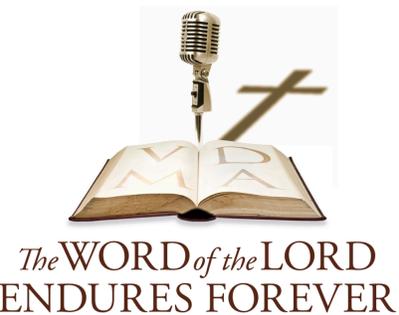
As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to the day of His return, His second Advent. On the Last Day, we will see Jesus returning in glory as King and Judge. The Good Shepherd will come again to gather His flock to Himself forever.

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