

Introit



A We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.

C **O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;***

let me know how fleeting | I am!

**Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,*
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.**

And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*
My hope | is in you.

**Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!**

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear | to my cry;*
hold not your peace | at my tears!

**Glorify be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen..**

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(Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12a; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13b)

Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament – Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹³ I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples,

nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Gradual

A These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the
blood | of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle - Jude 20–25

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel – Mark 13:24–37

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Readings Continued on Back →

The numbers on the right refer to the page numbers which are found in the Hymnal (LSB) which is located in the pew rack

The Preparation

Hymn of Invocation	516
Invocation	151
Confession & Absolution	151

The Service of the Word

Introit	Bulletin
Kyrie	152
Gloria in Excelsis	154
Salutation & Collect	156
The Old Testament	Bulletin
Gradual	Bulletin
Epistle	Bulletin
Alleluia and Verse	156
The Holy Gospel	Bulletin
Hymn of the Day:	336

Choir Sings Stanza 3

Sermon	
Apostles Creed	159
Prayer of the Church	159
Offering	159
<i>Choir: "Be Watchful, Be Ready" - Behnke</i>	
Offertory	159

The Service of the Sacrament

Preface	160
Sanctus	161
Lord's Prayer	162
The Words of Our Lord	162
Pax Domini	163
Agnus Dei	163
Distribution Hymns:	658 , 663 , 513
Dismissal	164
Thank the Lord	164
Post-Communion Collect	166
Benediction	166
Closing Hymn:	680

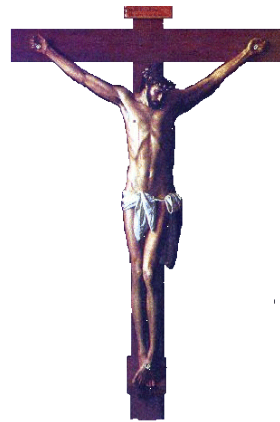
³² "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning- ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."



In Repentance We Are Alert to the Coming of Christ

The signs of the end are all around us, constant reminders that "heaven and earth will pass away." But all of these signs are centered in the cross of Christ, whereby He has conquered sin and death, that we might be raised with Him in righteousness through His Word of the Gospel, which "will not pass away" (Mark 13:31). He is "the firstborn of the dead," who in His great love "has freed us from our sins by his blood" (Rev. 1:5). His salvation is certain because "his dominion is an everlasting dominion" and His kingdom "shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:14). For this purpose He came into the world, to reign in love through His voice of the Gospel, which is the truth (John 18:37). So is the righteousness of Christ "a light to the peoples," which "will never be dismayed" because it is the justice of His cross and resurrection (Is. 51:4-6). As He "is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory," so wait upon "the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life" (Jude 20-24).

Soli Deo Gloria



Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PAGE 151

A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

Dear Visitors and Friends: The congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.**