

## This Week at VIC

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Today 11/24	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
Wednesday, 11/27	5:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:00 p.m.	Pie Social
	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Service
Sunday, 12/1	10:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	12:00 noon	Fellowship Lunch
	12:30 p.m.	Youth Confirmation

### Weekly Stewardship Focus

**Isaiah 51:6 – “For the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment.”** The things of this earth that hold our attention, that cause us worry, that tempt us away from the Lord, are all passing away. They will vanish like a garment. They are not for us to worry over, but rather to use for the Lord’s purposes. The things of this world are not ends in and of themselves, but only means to be used wisely by the children of the kingdom that has no end.

**Life Quote in the Church Year for November 24** “In spades the Lord has taught me, and prayerfully you also, that Psalm 23 is a thanksgiving psalm. He anoints our heads, which is the Old Testament way of saying He chooses us as kings. He makes us a part of His royal household! Man, are we blessed as His kids!” *Pastor Keith Haberstock, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**Life Thought in the Church Year for November 24 – Pentecost XXVII (Proper 29B)** – The Scriptural Ancient of Days has gray hair (Daniel 7:9). The Word of the Lord pictures Him as aged. And while the world idolizes youthfulness, the Bible speaks flatteringly of getting old. “Elder” is a compliment, long life is blessing, and advanced years embody wisdom and honor, even though they often also entail weaknesses. The Gospel of everlasting life in Christ leaves no room for physician-assisted suicide.

Cover illustration is by Evelyn Ortlepp (*The Children’s Hymnal*, 1955 CPH). This hymnal is in the public domain, as are *The Church Postils* and the hymn stanza.

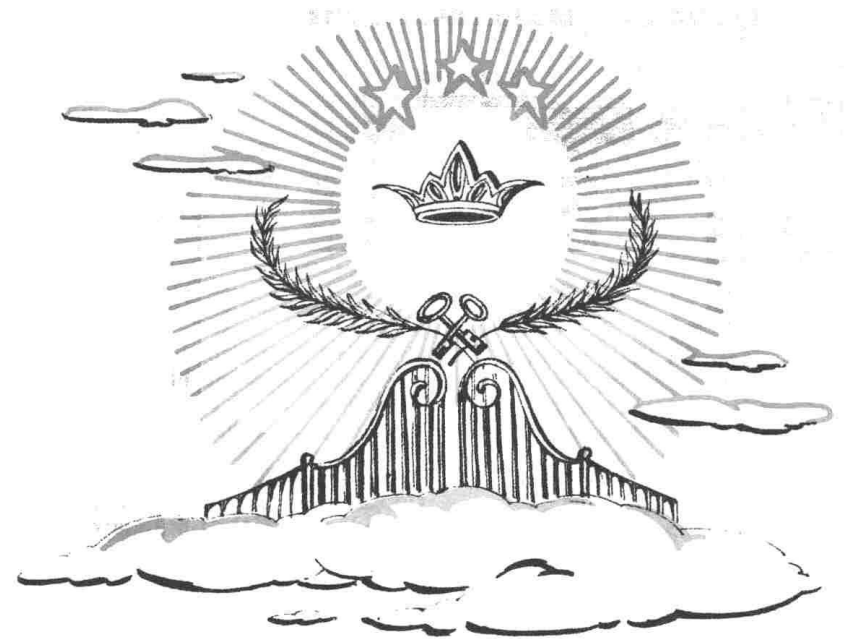
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## Victory in Christ Lutheran Church

*And what I say to you I say to all:*

**“Stay Awake”**

*Mark 13:37*



The Last Sunday of the Church Year  
November 24, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church  
508 Main Street  
Newark, Texas 76071  
817-489-5400

Pastor Philip Schielke

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**WELCOME!** We thank God for you and pray that He will richly bless our worship together.

**Communion:** We welcome all of our guests worshiping with us today and pray your faith is strengthened. God's Word declares to us that the bread and wine we receive in the Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ given for the forgiveness of sins and nourishing of faith (Matt. 26: 26-28; Mark 14: 22-24; Luke 22: 19-21; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26). When receiving His true body and blood, all communicants are to be united in their understanding and confession of Jesus Christ and all of His teaching (Jon. 17: 22; 1 Cor. 1: 10). An unworthy reception of this gift results in one who "eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Cor. 11: 29). Therefore, if you are still learning Lutheran doctrine or are not part of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you forward for a blessing and encourage you to speak with the pastor *before* the service in order to learn more about our teaching on the Lord's Supper.

**Hymn of Invocation: #578 – They Strong Word**

**Divine Service Setting Three: pg. 184**

**Introit**

***Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12a; antiphon 2 Peter 3:13b (E.S.V.)***

<sup>13b</sup> We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,  
the home of | righteousness.

**<sup>4</sup> O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of  
my days;**

**let me know how fleeting | I am!**

<sup>5</sup> Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.

**<sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?**

**My hope | is in you.**

<sup>8</sup> Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.

Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!

**<sup>12</sup> Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear | to my cry;**

**hold not your peace | at my tears!  
Glory 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.**

<sup>13b</sup> We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,  
the home of | righteousness.

**Old Testament Reading**

***Isaiah 51:4-6 (English Standard Version)***

<sup>4a</sup> Give attention to me, my people,  
and give ear to me, my nation;  
for a law will go out from me,  
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> My righteousness draws near,  
my salvation has gone out,  
and my arms will judge the peoples;  
the coastlands hope for me,  
and for my arm they wait.

<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

**Gradual**

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**New Testament Reading**

***Jude 20-25 (English Standard Version)***

<sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; <sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And have mercy on those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

**Doxology**

<sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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.

### **Gospel Reading**

***Mark 13:24-37 (English Standard Version)***

#### ***The Coming of the Son of Man***

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>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.

#### ***The Lesson of the Fig Tree***

<sup>28</sup>"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. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

#### ***No One Knows That Day or Hour***

<sup>32</sup>"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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— <sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

**Sermon Hymn: #336 – Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**

**Sermon:**

**Communion Hymns: #663 – Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray**

**Closing Hymn: #516 – Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**

### **Announcements**

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** – We will have our Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m.

**Pie Social** – Our annual Pie Social is Wednesday, November 27, at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite pie to share and enjoy some fellowship (and sugar) before the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service.

**Church Cleaning** – Scheduled for church cleaning the week of November 30, are the Richardson, Reinsmith, and Scott Rohloff families.

**Advent Services** – Join us for our Advent and Christmas worship series, "To Bethlehem through the Psalms." This Advent and Christmas season we reflect on the birth our Savior through the lens of the Psalms. Come and hear how the Psalms foretell the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords at Bethlehem, and His awaited return in glory. Our Advent Wednesday Services begin December 4, at 7:00 p.m. These services will be preceded by a free will donation dinner provided at 6:00 p.m.

**The Readings for today –  
The Last Sunday of the Church Year**

Isaiah 51:4–6 *or* Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

Jude 20–25 *or* Revelation 1:4b–8

Mark 13:24–37 *or* John 18:33–37

***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).

**A Look Ahead to Next Sunday –**

**First Sunday in Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14–16

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 19:28–40 *or* Luke 21:25–36

***The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us***

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this first Sunday establishes this theme for the rest of the season. The Son of God came long ago to be our Savior, *"a righteous Branch"* descended from David (Jer. 33:15). As He then came into Jerusalem, riding on a lowly donkey to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world (Luke 19:28–40), so does He come to His Church today in the humility of Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of His Passion: the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He absolves us and establishes our hearts *"blameless in holiness before our God and Father"* (1 Thess. 3:13). The same Lord Jesus, who came to Jerusalem then and who comes to us now in peace, will come again with power and great glory on the Last Day. Then there will be *"distress of nations in perplexity,"* with *"people fainting in fear."* Yet, as we anticipate that great and terrible day, He bids us to rest securely in Him: *"Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near"* (Luke 21:25, 26, 28).