



**But of that day and hour knoweth
no man, no, not the angels of heaven,
but my Father only.
(Mat 24:36 KJV)**

**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023
Canoga Park Lutheran Church
7357 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park, CA
818-348-5714 www.cplchurch.org**

AS WE GATHER

The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God's purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God's blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God's very gracious Word, "well done!" and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

" Blessed Jesus, at Your Word "

LSB No. 904

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
 △ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and
 all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,
 Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
 Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -
 sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
 Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
 low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1-3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-84; (sts. 1-3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.
 Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625-73, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

KYRIE

(Sung to LSB No.744 'Amazing Grace')

Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

Have mercy, Christ, our King.

Renew us by Your mercy, Lord;

Accept the prayers we bring.

GLORIA

(Sung to LSB No.380 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing')

"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.

Peace to all who live on earth,

**Grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify, Worship, You, O Lord most high.
Gracious Father, heav'nly King,
To Your name alone we sing:
Praise the glory of Your name,**

**Now and evermore the same!
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, Sole-begotten, holy One,
Born on earth from realms on high,
Born true man for us to die,
Lamb of God, You take away
This world's sin: Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit, You alone Are most high, O God the Son,
And the Father, God above.
Praise we now Your glorious love.**

(Kyrie & Gloria Copyright 1991 @ CPH. Used by permission.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You.

People: Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—

"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.'¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:26–36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

²⁶So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ²⁸Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

²⁹“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³²“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. ³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

“ The Day is Surely Drawing Near ”

LSB No. 508



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
 2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
 3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
 6 May Christ our in - ter - ces - sor be And through His blood and mer - it
 7 O Je - sus Christ, do not de - lay, But has - ten our sal - va - tion;



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
 And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
 What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
 Read from His book that we are free With all who life in -
 We of - ten trem - ble on our way In fear and trib - u -



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
 wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
 dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
 her - it. Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His
 la - tion. O hear and grant our fer - vent plea: Come, might - y



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
 might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
 known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
 saints in that blest place Which He has pur - chased for us.
 judge, and set us free From death and ev - 'ry e - vil.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832–1919, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON
 PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

“ We don't Know! ”

Matthew 24:26-36

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.

Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, grant peace and love in families, give wisdom to parents and willingness to learn to children, and provide faithful congregations, caring friends, and extended relatives to support them through all the changes in life.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [including . . .], as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

SPECIAL PETITIONS

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: For all the things we don't know how to pray for, for those things that burden us, stress us out, and keep us awake all night; for the prayers where we don't even have the words to say, hear those prayers as we pray as the Lord Jesus taught us...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

*Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*

People: Amen.



1 “Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing,” The watch - men on the
 2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with
 3 Now let all the heav’ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; “A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!”
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals’ clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: “Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God’s own Son,
 No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near.”
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608
 Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

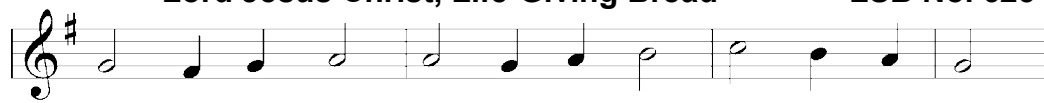
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“ Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread ”

LSB No. 625



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace
2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -
3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free
4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin



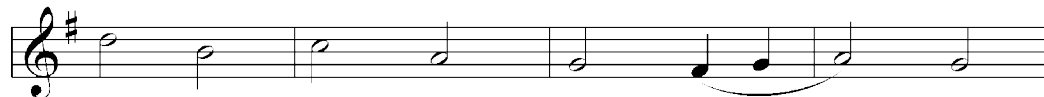
pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,
ters lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,
re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight
would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,



In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well
Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -
In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,
O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress



for You, O Lord, And, hum - bly by my prayer im - plored,
ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,
Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,
this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,



Give me Your grace and mer - cy.
To share Your cup of heal - ing.
As - sured of Your full par - don.
O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.
Tune: Theütsch kirchen ampt, 1525, Strassburg
Text and tune: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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This Worship is a combined Worship and is recorded and uploaded to our website so other members and folks all around the world are able to Worship with us! If you can't be with us in-person Sunday mornings, please Worship along with us online. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. In HIS service & love, Pastor Tim

THE LUTHERAN HOUR for Sunday, November 26th, "**Loving Mercy**" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy. Will those who do good things be saved? Or, will those who are saved...do good things? Dr. Dean Nadasdy says those who love Christ also love showing mercy to others. For info on where to listen, go to lutheranhour.org

THERE WILL BE A THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE HERE on THIS COMING Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 9:30AM. Please join us.