

Tuesday Tidings of Grace



This Tuesday is November 21, 2023

This past Sunday was:

Pentecost 25

[Sunday Worship on YouTube](#)

[Sunday Sermon on Website](#)

This past Sunday we began the shift in focus to the end of the Church Year and with it also a focus on the End Times. We heard amazing words of hope from St. Paul in 1st Thessalonians 4 and Pastor preached on a phrase that reminds us of God's desire and plan when the end comes and Jesus' returns: "so we will always be with the Lord."

Next Sunday, November 26 is:

Last Sunday of the Church Year

On this Sunday we will hear Jesus' words on the Final Judgment and Paul's words describing Jesus' victory over death. There will also be a special stewardship emphasis in worship.

The readings are:

[Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:20-28](#)

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

The Hymn of the Day is:

"The Head That Once Was Crowned With
Thorns" (LSB #532)

Grace Events This Week

Wed 11/22 - Thanksgiving Worship (7pm)

Thu 11/23 - Thanksgiving Worship (10am)

Sun 11/25 - **2024 Commitment Forms** - In worship on the 25th we will bring forward our 2024 commitment forms to be placed in an offering plate. These forms will be kept safe and sealed until they are returned to you at the end of 2024. Please considering participating. If you can't be here on the 25th these forms can be returned to the office.

Daily Bible Readings

<https://bit.ly/gracedailybible>

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 26, 2023

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

In this reading, the Lord God describes Himself as a shepherd who seeks out His shepherd. He goes into wonderful detail how He cares for His sheep even seeking them out when they are lost. This reading pairs nicely with the Gospel text for this morning where Jesus speaks of the final judgment and describes it as a separating of the sheep from the goats. Similarly in Ezekiel's book, the Lord speaks of a judgment and a separation. For those sheep in His flock (i.e. all believers) this will be a moment of great comfort because of the love of our Good Shepherd.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

This reading is part of an amazing chapter where Paul writes powerfully about the good news of the resurrection of the dead. In verse 20 Paul speaks of the certainty of Christ's resurrection and also the joy it means that He is the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." In that phrase Paul teaches us that what happened in Jesus' resurrection is what awaits all of us who fall asleep in Him. That as Jesus was raised into an everlasting glorified body so too will we. And as Jesus was raised to never die again, so shall we also remain victorious over death forever and ever.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

In this reading Jesus gives us an image of the final judgment. We do well to take this seriously. There are false teachers in today's world that deny the existence of God's judgment or the condemnation of unbelievers. Jesus' words on this matter are made clear in this passage. He also gives a beautiful reminder of the God-pleasing love we ought to share with our neighbors and especially those in need. He reminds us that as we love and care for one another it is as if we are showing that love directly to Him. His love flows through us and all our good deeds as others come to know Him through us. How we live does matter, and a life full of truth and love is indeed God-pleasing and a sign of the Spirit's saving faith worked within us.