

Last Sunday of the Church Year – 2021

Saturday, 11/20 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/21 at 9:00



This Is It

Last Chance

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Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today, as we end the church year, *we also focus on Jesus' return*. Now is the time for repentance – **THIS IS IT, last chance!**

1. **Pay Attention: Isaiah 51:4-6** – *The LORD is speaking through Isaiah:*
 - a. ⁴ **“Pay attention to Me, O My people, And give ear to Me, O My nation; For a law will go forth from Me, And I will set My justice for a light of the peoples. // Pay attention to my instruction, which is calling and empowering everyone to repent.**
 - b. ⁵ **“My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait for Me, And for My arm they will wait expectantly. // I am showing mercy – holding back the punishment everyone deserves and doing all**

that is needed – *to deliver everyone from the condemnation of their sins.*

- c. **“Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not wane. //** Things that seem permanent – *like the sky and the earth*, will easily vanish – *like smoke*, but My rescue will continue strong forever.

2. **Grow Up, Reach Out, Honor God: Jude 20-25** – The H.S. moved Jude, *Jesus’ half-brother*, to write these words:

- a. **Grow up:** ²⁰ **But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,** ²¹ **keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. //** Building yourselves up by ♦seeking God’s will, ♦doing God’s will, and ♦being excited about Jesus’ return.
- b. **Reach out:** ²² **And have mercy on some, who are doubting;** ²³ **save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. //** Reach out to ♦doubters, ♦unbelievers, and ♦filthy sinners.
- c. **Honor God:** ²⁴ **Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless 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. //** Since

God is working by the Spirit through the word to keep us, let us ✦stay in the word, ✦pay attention to the Spirit, and ✦honor our great God!

3. **Jesus' Return: Mark 13:24-37** – With these words, *Jesus completed His teaching-filled Holy Tuesday:*
- a. **²⁴ “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 that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ “Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. ²⁷ “And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven. // After false Christs, wars, earthquakes, famines, and believers being hated, then ✦the shining will stop, ✦the universe will fall apart, ✦Jesus will come, and ✦believers will be gathered.**
 - b. **²⁸ “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ “Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door. 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. // As we can recognize the change in seasons, *so discerning believers should recognize that Jesus' return is near.* Opponents of God will finally cease when Jesus returns, *but God's word will endure forever!***

- c. ³² “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*.
³³ “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come. ³⁴ “It is like a man away on a journey, *who* upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, *assigning* to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. ³⁵ “Therefore, be on the alert-- for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning-- ³⁶ in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ “What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’” // Since none of us know exactly when Jesus will return, it is wise to live in constant repentance – *with sorrow for sins and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – Jesus will return!
- **Relevance** – This is it – *no second chance!*
- **Inspiration** – Rejoice in Jesus and reach out to others!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, Since You have set the day when Jesus will come, *keep us ready and use us to reach others!*

This Wednesday: Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service at 7:00

**Next Sat/Sun: First Sunday in Advent
2021 ADVENT SERMON SERIES – Sundays and Wednesdays
“The Child of Promise & Fulfillment”**

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