

Lift up your heads, lift up your eyes; Keep watch with joy o'er darkened skies. The Son of Righteousness is near. The earth may quake, the nations rage, fulfillments of this evil age. For faithful hearts there is no fear.

*Lift up your heads, pray constantly;* Do not be troubled when you see the famines, drought and pestilence. For Jesus Christ still walks beside, through darkest watches will abide, *Companion in your vigilance.* 

Lift up your heads and search the skies, The light eternal will arise when our Redeemer comes again. Then we shall see his radiant face who stands triumphant in his grace. Lord Jesus, quickly come. Amen.

#### M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

and the love of God

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with you.

C: And also with you.



### M: Dear friends,

let us approach God with honest

hearts and confess our sins to him,

asking him for the sake of our Lord

Jesus Christ to forgive us.

# **C:** O most holy and righteous Lord,

I am a sinner whose thoughts, words, and actions testify

to the evil that lives within me. Be merciful to me.

Take from me the sin that I have inherited and the sins

that I have committed, for the sake of your holy, precious

blood and innocent suffering and death.

M: The Savior's **work is finished**.

The price is **paid in full**.



"Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though

your sins be as scarlet,

they shall be as white as snow,

though they be as

crimson, they shall be as

wool

M: According to the Lord's command I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit.

Thanks be to God! Amen. M: O, Lord, open my lips.

**C:** And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world: Let us worship him! Come, oh come, let us sing to the Lord Let us shout for joy to our saving Rock; Come, enter in with our songs of praise, Come, enter in with thanksgiving!

You are a great and a wondrous God, **Cupping in your hands** all the depths of earth! You made the hills and the mountains high, You made the seas and the dry land.



Come, oh come, let us sing to the Lord Let us shout for joy to our saving Rock; Come, enter in with our songs of praise, Come, enter in with thanksgiving! Come, let us worship and, bowing low, Kneel before the One who has made us all. You are the God whom we call our own. We are the flock that you shepherd. Come, oh come, let us sing to the Lord Let us shout for joy to our saving Rock; Come, enter in with our songs of praise, Come, enter in with thanksgiving!

# Prayer of the Day

#### Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

"As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated, and the books were opened. **13** "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him.

### His dominion is an everlasting dominion

### that will not pass away,

#### and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.



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## Alleluia!

I AM the Alpha and the Omega, The First and the Last. The Beginning and the End. Alleluia!



#### Matthew **25:31-46**

<sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right,'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

**37** "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' <sup>41</sup>"Then the King will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed you did not clothe me, I was sick and in clothes and prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup>"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup>"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you: whatever you did not do it for one of you did not do it for me.' the least of these, <sup>46</sup>Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Still, my soul, be still and do not fear though winds of change may rage tomorrow. God is at your side; no longer dread the fires of unexpected sorrow. God, you are my God, and I will trust in You and not be shaken. Lord of peace, renew a steadfast spirit within me to rest in You alone.

Still, my soul, be still; do not moved by lesser lights and fleeting shadows. Hold onto his ways, with shield of faith against temptation's flaming arrows. God, you are my God, and I will trust in You and not be shaken. Lord of peace, renew a steadfast spirit within me to rest in You alone.

Still, my soul, be still; do not forsake the truth you learned in the beginning. Wait upon the Lord, and hope will rise as stars appear when day is dimming. God, you are my God, and I will trust in You and not be shaken. Lord of peace, renew a steadfast spirit within me - to rest in You alone.



#### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed

about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

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14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we

believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen

asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you

that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of

the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen

asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down

from heaven, with a loud command,

with the voice of the archangel and with

the trumpet call of God,

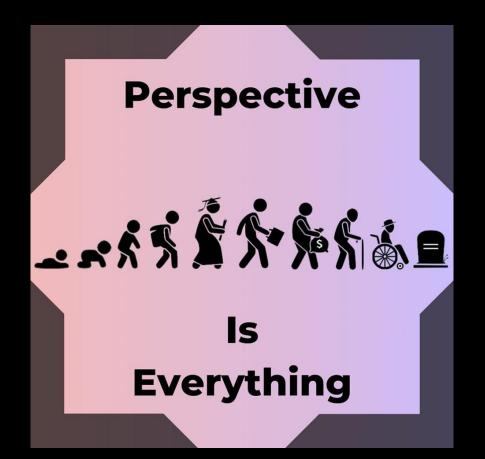
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.



# Let's talk about death, what happens after death, and what's ahead at the End

#### <u>Sermon</u>



# "Danger of death: How you are unlikely to die"

odds of dying from a "tornado" in a given year - 1 in 13,120,000.
odds of dying by being "struck by lightning" in a given year - = 1 in 6,693,878.

- dying by "Falling down stairs" in a given year was 1 in only 157,300.
- "Death from influenza/pneumonia" in a given year is 1 in 6,560.
- •You can get all the way down to a number like the odds of dying from a "heart attack" in a given year: 1 in 2,779.



# Let's talk about death, what happens after death, and what's ahead at the End

"...we do not want you to be uninformed...." - vs,13

"Jesus died" - vs.14

"Jesus died and rose again" - vs.14

"Jesus died and rose again" - vs.14

"In the same way... God will bring with Jesus those

who have fallen asleep in Him" - vs.14

"...we will be with the Lord forever." - vs.18

#### You are God; we praise you.

You are Lord; we acclaim you.

To you, O Father Holy,

**All creation offers praise!** 

With the angels in heaven

M:

We praise you! We praise you!

M: With the cherubim and seraphim

We praise you! We praise you!

# With apostles and prophets M: We praise you! We praise you! **C**: With the martyrs and your holy Church M: We sing in endless praise! C:

#### You are God; we praise you.

You are Lord; we acclaim you.

To you, O Father Holy,

**All creation offers praise!** 



We praise you! **C**: We praise you!

M:

- O Jesus Christ, M: the Son of God,
- We praise you! C: We praise you!

M:	O Spirit, most holy,
C:	We praise you! We praise you!
M:	To the Trinity, most blessed,
<b>C</b> :	We sing in endless praise!

#### You are God; we praise you.

You are Lord; we acclaim you.

To you, O Father Holy,

**All creation offers praise!** 

#### M: O Christ, King of glory,

- C: We praise you! We praise you!
- M: You became a man to set us free;
- C: We praise you! We praise you!



#### M: You have risen to free us;

- C: We praise you! We praise you!
- M: And with all your saints in glory;

# C: We sing in endless praise!

You are God; we praise you.

You are Lord; we acclaim you.

To you, O Father Holy, All creation offers praise!

All creation offers praise!

All creation offers praise!

In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

> Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

M:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

# **Prayer for Grace**

# M: The Lord bless and keep you;

#### C: A- - -men!

#### M: The Lord's face ever shine upon you;

#### **C:** A----men!

M: The Lord grant you peace for all your days. C: A---men!

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path; For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast; Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last; Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast; Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast. Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast. 'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Schedule TUES Women's Gathering 10am Youth Confirmation / Catechism class WED 6:15pm SAT Men's gathering 10am Christmas Decorating 11am Bible Hour, with classes for all ages Next Sunday 9am Worship -10am Potluck & Presentation following worship

Other upcoming events / happenings ...

- Potluck, and cultural presentation on Guyana: next Sunday. Would you like to learn about Albert's home country of Guyana? You're invited.
- Christmas Caroling date set: Wed Dec. 13th. More details TBA.
- Special Christmas Services

Dec.17 - Children sing in the service to share the Christmas news Dec.24 Christmas Eve Candlelight worship 6:30pm Dec.25 Christmas Day worship 10am