



Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

We express our appreciation for being able to meet on the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. May we always look for ways to confront past injustices and support Snuneymuxw governance and jurisdiction.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Gracious God,

We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: #870 We Praise You, O God

- 1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

- 2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

This is the Feast (*Hymnal, Setting 4, pages 149-50*)

Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

Refrain:

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

Final Refrain:

***This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Corner

First Reading – Daniel 12:1-3

‘At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Second Reading – Hebrews 10:11-25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*Hymnal Setting Four , page 151*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia

Gospel – Mark 13:1-8

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A fortune-teller studies the hand of a young man and said, “You will be poor and very unhappy until you are thirty-seven years old.”

The young man responded, “Well, after that, what will happen? Will I be rich and happy?”

The fortune-teller said, “No, you’ll still be poor, but you’ll be used to it after that.”

We want to know what will happen to us and to the world. Many Christians examine the Bible in order to discover a blue print of what the future will be like. They want to know every detail of what the futures hold for them.

When the United Nations recognize the state of Israel in 1949, many Christian thought it signaled the end of the world, the second coming of Christ.

Through out the centuries there have many Christians who claim to know what the future will be like. They claim to have special insight.

In 1831 William Miller of Pittsfield, Massachusetts after studying the Bible said that the Second Advent or coming of Christ will occur in 1844. Thousands of people believed him and sold their possessions and were very disappointed when nothing happened. The Seventh Day Adventist church was founded after that by many of Miller’s followers.

The Bible tells us that no one outside of God knows when the end will be. It will be like a thief in the night. It will be unexpected.

In fact, while Jesus was on earth he did not know when the end time would be. Later in the same of chapter of Mark that our text comes from, Jesus says, “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

So those who claim to know when the end of the world would be are claiming to know more than Jesus did while he was on earth.”

When Jesus came to earth, he gave up his power, his might, and became a complete human being. It means that while on earth, he was limited. He could even die. Once Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, he had all the power that was his from the beginning.

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

However, while on earth he was given some insight concerning the end of the world even if he did not know exactly when it was to occur. We see this in our text.

In today's text Jesus is in Jerusalem with his disciples. It is his last week on earth. The disciples look at the Holy Temple. Herod the Great had taken a rather small temple and build up the area around it until it became one of the great structures of the ancient world. It was huge. It covered 17 acres. There was a large under ground systems of passages in the vast platform that Herod built to surround the temple. Some of the stones were as large as a city buss. Even today we can hardly imagine how it was possible to cut such huge stones and cart them all the way to Jerusalem and to lift each one in place. The stones were cut so carefully that a paper could not fit between one stone and another.

Even though the Jews hated Herod the Great, who died shortly after Jesus' birth, they were proud of the buildings that he started especially the Holy Temple. In our text the building weas not yet completed, but it was beautiful.

As our text begins, Jesus and his disciples leave the temple complex. They say to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"

Jesus' response really surprises them. "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another: all will be thrown down."

The disciples are really shocked. What! The Holy Temple destroyed! It's unbelievable! It is not like what happened during the time of the prophet Jeremiah when the first temple was destroyed. For then the people did not properly worship the true God. Instead, they worshipped many pagan gods along with the true God. However, at the time of our text, the people of Israel are faithful to God. Only the end of the world and the coming of God would cause the temple to be destroyed. It was believed by many at that time that just before God comes to reign for all eternity, there will be a time of suffering and great sorrow. If the temple is destroyed it must signal the end.

Jesus and his disciples travel outside the city to the Mount of Olives which is right across from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew ask Jesus privately, "Tell us when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these tings are about to be accomplished?"

Jesus warns them that there will be great suffering and disaster, but it does not mean that the end has come. At most, it will signal the beginning of the end. He also warns them that many people will arise who will announce that he has returned when he hasn't.

Jesus says, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray."

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Throughout history there have been a number of people who claim to be the messiah.

In a Pennsylvania town several generations ago, a stranger appeared and rented the opera house for one night. About a month before the date for which he had rented the hall, he put a large sign on the most prominent billboard in town, stating in huge letters, "He is coming!" A week before the fateful night, this was replaced by: "He will be at the opera house on October 31!" The day before the event, there was a simple statement: "He is here!" The following morning: "He will be at the opera house tonight at 8:30"! That night the stranger himself sat in the box office and sold tickets to a capacity audience. At 8:30 p.m. when the curtain went up inside, however, all the crowd could see was a huge sign reading: "He is gone!" And, of course, so was the promoter.

There will be those who will announce that Jesus has come and the end is here. We are not to listen to them.

Jesus also warns the disciples that disasters such as the destruction of the temple does not mean that the end is near. I think about the two major hurricanes that struck the states this year. To those people hit by the hurricanes it must seem like the end of the world.

Jesus says, "When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

Shortly after Jesus' death and resurrection, there was a serious famine in Israel and in the surrounding countries. Cities also were destroyed by earthquakes. The crazy Roman Emperor Caligula wanted a statue of himself placed in the Holy of Holies in the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews were so outraged at this sacrilege that they were ready to rise in armed rebellion against Rome. However, a wise Roman General kept postponing implementing Caligula's orders about it until the emperor was killed by his own soldiers, the Praetorian Guard.

Then about twenty years later in 66 AD or Common Era, Israel finally rose up against Rome and a terrible war started that ended with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple in 70 AD or Common Era. Millions of people died and millions more were led off to a horrible life of slavery. For most the Jews and the Jewish Christians this must have felt like the end of the world. To the Christians it seemed to signal the coming of Jesus as the Son of Man. But Jesus tells his disciples in today's text that it will not be the end.

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

It is believed by many Biblical scholars, that Mark put down the message of Jesus and his words into writing during this time that is during the Roman—Jewish War. Some even believe Mark did this so the Jewish Christians would not see this war as the final coming of Jesus and join the rebellion.

I wonder if some Americans feel that the past presidential election feel that the end of the world is near.

I feel that it really doesn't matter to us when the end of the world is. It won't make much difference to us. For when we die, it will be the end of the world for us. We all know we are going to die and for some of us we know it is not really that far away.

We also know that everything will eventually die. I am reminded of an old story. An astronomer was giving a lecture about how the Sun will eventually expand to a large red ball which will engulf earth and destroy it. When he told how long from now this will take place, a woman in the audience shouted out with alarm, "When did you say it will happen?" The astronomer said "in four billion years." "Whew!" she said in relief, "I thought you said four million years."

It doesn't make any difference to us when the end of the world will be. For we have the promise that we will be with Jesus. Some of us may experience suffering just as Jesus suffered and died. But as Jesus rose from the dead, so we will be raised. When that happens, everything will be put right. Suffering will end. Oppression will end. Sickness will end. Loneliness will end. Selfishness will end. Death will end. Evil will end.

I came across this analogy a few years back. It suggests that we are all on path that leads to the future and to the end time. But on this journey to the future many will die and fall off the path. However, this path is surrounded by the Future. So, as we fall off, we go right to the future. It is only an analogy but I find it interesting.

We know there will be a new heaven and a new earth. There will be life, joy, peace, friendship and love that will last forever. Everything will be the way they should have been. We will be with God. We will be with the Son of God. We will be with the one who loves us so deeply and completely as we are and not as we should be that he gave everything up for us so we could bask in his love forever.

Pastor Cueni writes that since he was to be gone all Saturday afternoon and would not be able to watch the Texas Christian University Hornfrogs play, he set his TV to record the televised football game. As expected, the game was over by the time he got home. However, quite by accident he heard that the Hornfrogs had won!

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Since he did not know the score or any details, he decided to watch the recorded game. He thought that knowing the Hornfrogs had won would ruin the excitement. Instead, it enhanced it. He could still cheer the touchdowns enthusiastically. When the Frogs fell behind, he did not need to get discouraged. Since he knew that in the end all would work out for the best, he was more tolerant of the coach's play calling and the player's mistakes. Knowing that no matter what happened, in the end the Frogs were going to win, made it possible to watch the game with much more confidence than he usually had in his favourite team.

Pastor Cueni goes on to say that the same principle applies with Christians. We know the end our stories. Before the foundation of the world, God chose us to be winners. Consequently, we can face any circumstances and not be afraid. No matter what happens, we will not end and can not be ultimately defeated.

A man asked God how long a million years was to Him. God replied, "It's just like a single second of your time, my child." So, the man asked, "And what about a million dollars?" The Lord replied, "To me, it's just like a single penny." So, the man gathered himself up and said, "Well, Lord, could I have one of your pennies?" And God said, "Certainly, my child, just a second."

Even though God's time is not our time, the day is coming when Jesus will come again to make everything right. So, we need not give up hope, when we encounter, suffering. We need not be dismayed when there are disasters, when there are wars. It doesn't necessarily mean that the end is near, but it reminds us that Jesus will come again and we will be with him forever. So, we have a hope that nothing can take away from us. We can endure to the end because we have Jesus with now and we will see him face to face when he comes again. We will be able to look right into the loving face of our Saviour and experience total life We have hope. We know that we and the world will be saved. Jesus is coming again. The peace of God, which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #438 My Lord, What A Morning

Refrain

***My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.***

- 1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

**2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

(brief silence)

O God, in the washing of water you set us free from the power of sin and death. Unite all the baptized in the covenant you have made with us, as we strive for your justice and peace in all the earth. We pray for Bishop **Kathy Martin**; *Grace Lutheran* and *South Peace United* in Dawson Creek with **Pastor Marilyn Carroll**; and *Deo Lutheran* in Salmon Arm & **Pastor Erik Bjorgan**. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

By your merciful might you sustain all creation. Stir us from complacency with the harm we inflict on the earth, and urge us to adopt sustainable ways of life that protect and restore our planet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With a selfless power you protect all who take refuge in you. As nations rise against nations, defend all who are displaced or affected by war or violence. Empower all people and nations to pursue peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In your presence you give fullness of joy. Care for all for whom joy feels distant. Be present with persons experiencing depression, anxiety, addiction, or any mental illness. We remember also...

Ahmad H & family; Don & Vicki; Pastor Kristen Steele

Bring them healing and wholeness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Through the years you have gathered your church and this community for worship, fellowship, formation, and service. Enable us to look beyond the walls of our

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

building to perceive where you are calling us forward. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember all saints and angels who delight in your everlasting presence. As their lives inspire ours, provoke us always to love, holding fast to the confession of our hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace [*unmute*]

The peace of Christ is with you always!

And also with you!

*(We greet each other gently with a wave, a smile,
or some other gesture of peace)*

The Offering & Offertory

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise...** (*pastor continues*)

Holy, holy, holy (*Hymnal, Setting 4, page 153*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks, O God, that you sowed your Word in Jesus, to grow your kingdom here on earth and draw us ever near. Jesus planted mercy wherever he went to reap a greater righteousness. He shared bread with outcasts and sinners and healed the brokenhearted. Glory to you forever.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying: ***Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.***

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: ***This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.***

Remembering his dying and rising, we bring this bread and wine, and ourselves in grateful service. Pour out your Spirit upon us today. Breathe your Spirit over all creation that together we may cultivate peace in this world. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, by the inspiration of your Life-giving Spirit, we worship you, Creating God, in songs of endless praise now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Communion *(those on Zoom will be communed first, and then those in the sanctuary)*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Happy are those who trust in the Lord.

Lamb of God *(Hymnal, Setting 4, page 154)*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion Hymns:

Hymn #785 When Peace Like A River

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

***It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.***

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

2 **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain***

3 **He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***

4 **Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

Hymn #773 Precious Lord

**Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When the darkness appears And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Blessing

**The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.**

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Sending Song #723 Canticle of the Turning

**1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.***

**2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain***

**4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard**

Hope Lutheran Church
November 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

**is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. Refrain**

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

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*Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.*

Worship Assistants Today

Hymnologist: *John Collett* (musician selecting hymns):

Reader: *Lewis Bakker*

Intercessions: *Steven Musgreave*

Communion Assistants: *Flo Bender, Marilyn Gross, Carolyn Iles*

Zoom Hosts: *Gerry & Glenn*

Zoom Greeters: *Dorothy Pagan, Linda Harvey, Bill Fehr*

Usher: *Rosalind & Neil Schramm*

Piano: *Pippa Williams*

Presiding: *Rev. Marvin Svingen*

Readings for Sunday, November 24 — Christ the King Sunday
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

(Pastor Terry will be back in the office on Wednesday, Nov20)