

# The Day of the Lord

## As We Gather

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world—not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

## 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

Amos 5:18, 20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16; Matthew 25:6, 10

- P** Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD?

- C** Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
- P** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
- C** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
- P** At midnight there was a cry, “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.”
- C** The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

## 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515

2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

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## Confession and Absolution

Amos 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17–18; Matthew 25:13

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.
- C** We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.

**P** As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

**C** We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

**P** As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

**C** We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.

## 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515

3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

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## Absolution

**P** But let justice roll down like waters,  
**C** and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**P** And so we will always be with the Lord.

**C** Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**P** In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to “watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. 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.

## 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515

4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

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## Introit

Psalms 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts!

Behold our shield, O God;

look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts,

blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

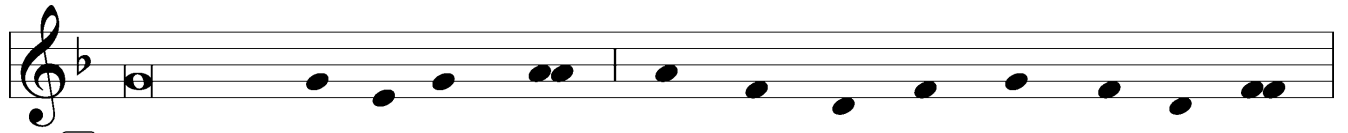
**Kyrie**

LSB 186

**C** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Gloria in Excelsis**

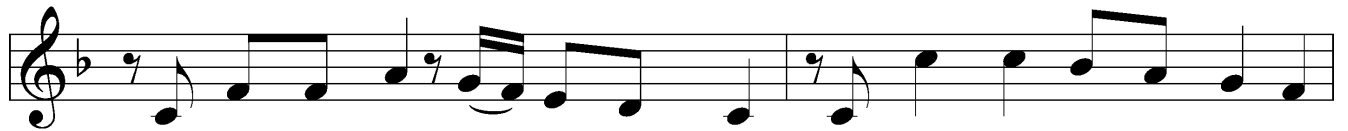
LSB 154



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



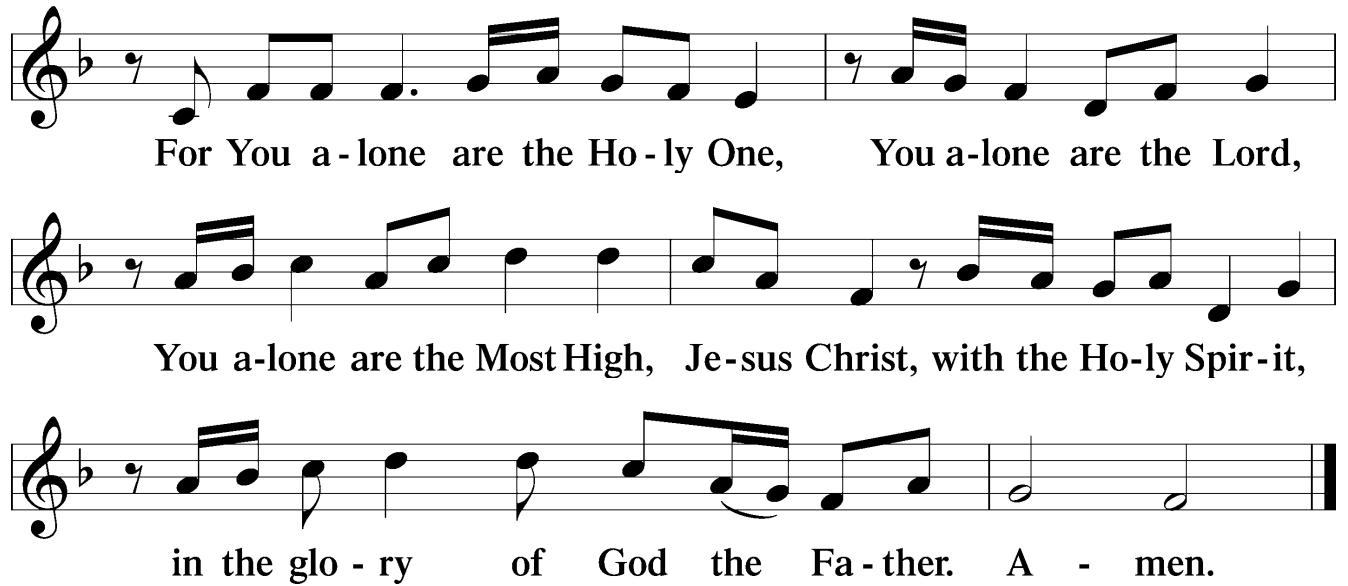
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,  
 You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

### Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
 Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

Amos 5:18–24

- <sup>18</sup>Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!  
 Why would you have the day of the LORD?  
 It is darkness, and not light,  
<sup>19</sup>as if a man fled from a lion,  
 and a bear met him,  
 or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,  
 and a serpent bit him.  
<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,  
 and gloom with no brightness in it?  
<sup>21</sup>“I hate, I despise your feasts,  
 and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
 I will not accept them;

and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,  
I will not look upon them.  
<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.  
<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

Matthew 25:13

Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for

yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

LSB 516



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



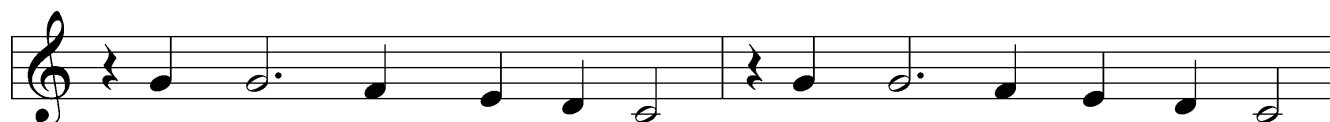
heights are cry - ing; “A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!”  
 joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals’ clear - est tone.



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

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## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Church

Revelation 22:20

**P** As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and supplications, we commonly close our prayers with “Amen.” Derived from a Hebrew verb, *amen*

means “certainty” or “to confirm.” As Martin Luther put it, *amen* means, “Yes, yes, it shall be so.” As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” We, in our wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our “amens,” and confidently invite Him to come.

Let us pray for the people of God in the Bridegroom, Christ Jesus; His Bride, the Church; and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, grant to us all things needful and dissuade us from all things harmful. Fill the oil in our lamps, strengthen and nourish our faith, that united, together we as Your Church and as Your people confidently and courageously shine Your light to our neighbors, our community, and the world. Amen.

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Heavenly Father, keep us ready in our waiting for the promised day to come when the door is opened and we are welcomed to the wedding feast. In our wait, keep us from earthly distractions that would lead us away from You. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us prepared to welcome Jesus when He comes in all His glory at the hour and the day You have set, as we remain trusting in Your promises made, promises fulfilled, and promises to come. Amen.

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Heavenly Father, You have already called faithful servants from this life as they are in Your glorious care and await the resurrection. For we who remain on this earth, give comfort and hope to those who grieve, [*especially . . .*]. For those who struggle with health of mind or sickness of body, grant healing according to Your will and lasting peace in light of affliction, [*especially . . .*]. For all those whose needs are known only to You and for all who face the afflictions of this life while awaiting the Last Day at Your time, grant patience. Amen.

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Heavenly Father, as we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” awaiting His return, we know that in the meantime He even comes to us now through Your Word and Means of Grace. In the body and blood given and shed for us in, with, and under the bread and wine given and received, forgive us our sins and nourish our faith in our waiting that our hearts and lives be reflective of the grace You freely give. Amen.

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Additional petitions may be added.*

- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## Offering - We Thank the Lord with the Offering

### Offertory

LSB 192

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

### Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.**

**Closing Response**      Amos 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17–18; Matthew 25:13; Revelation 22:20–21

**P** But let justice roll down like waters,  
**C** **and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**P** And so we will always be with the Lord.  
**C** **Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

**P** Watch therefore,  
**C** **for you know neither the day nor the hour.**

**P** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”  
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

**P** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.  
**C** **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

**P** 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

### **673 Jerusalem, My Happy Home**

LSB 673



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home,  
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints,  
3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks  
4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit



When shall I come to thee?      When shall my sor - rows  
O sweet and pleas - ant soil!      In thee no sor - row  
Con - tin - ual - ly are green;      There grow such sweet and  
And ev - er - more do spring;      There ev - er - more the



have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
may be found, No grief, no care, no toil.  
pleas - ant flow'rs As no - where else are seen.  
an - gels dwell And ev - er - more do sing.

5 Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there  
Around my Savior stand;  
And soon my friends in Christ below  
Will join the glorious band.

6 O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare  
For that bright home of love  
That I may see Thee and adore  
With all Thy saints above.

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent., alt.

Tune: American

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