



*...“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”*

*~Mark 12:43-44*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – November 10, 2024**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!  
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### \*GATHERING SONG *O God beyond All Praising (ELW 880)*



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Greetings to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes:  
The Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

**Amen.**

Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives.  
And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us  
confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**we want a faith that feels like more than words,**

**but we lack your power to embody goodness.**

**We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food.**

**We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal.**

**We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger.**

**We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers,**

**but we fail to match our intentions to our actions.**

**Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence.**

God knows we are imperfect.

But God did not invite us here today for what we have done

or how we have behaved. God loves you.

God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings.

God forgives you all your sins.

Now repeat after me.

We accept God's forgiveness.

**We accept God's forgiveness.**

We take our place in God's purpose.

**We take our place in God's purpose.**

**Amen.**

# \*Canticle of Praise *Glory to God*

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 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.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. You listen to us with unwavering attention, and you invest in us so we can flourish. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING 1 Kings 17:8-16

A reading from 1 Kings.

<sup>8</sup> The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, <sup>9</sup> “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” <sup>10</sup> So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” <sup>11</sup> As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” <sup>12</sup> But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” <sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup> For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” <sup>15</sup> She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup> The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 146

*Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

**and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;**

**who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28

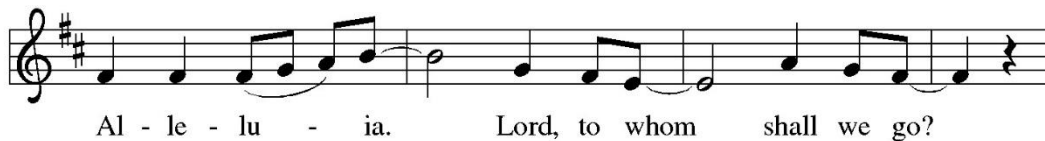
A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>24</sup> Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### \*GOSPEL READING: Mark 12:38-44

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup> As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

#### \*HYMN OF THE DAY *Let Us Enter In* (ACS 985)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 Let us en-ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.  
2 Let us en-ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.  
3 Let us en-ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en-ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.  
Let us en-ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.  
Let us en-ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en-ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.  
Let us en-ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.  
Let us en-ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.  
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.  
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

#### \*APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right  
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the  
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small, and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts and pursue peace. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for (*blue prayer cards are read*). We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God. Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY HYMN *We Are an Offering* (ELW 692)

*sing 2 times through*

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Together we pray.

Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.

**You set the table with plenty of love.**

Prepare room in your home

**for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a place in your vision

**for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a seat at your table

**for my neighbor and me.**

Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.

**You set the table with plenty of love.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

God, yours was the First Thought; before any human lived or knew your name, you whispered, and creation built itself around your words. Before your ancient people knew the depth of your love, you promised them goodness, and led them to freedom.

**Your love grows unseen.**

Before the world knew your face, your own child was born in a quiet stable.

**Your love blooms in the dark.**

Before we knew the depth of your love, your child died, crucified, and you forgave, and new life grew in the grave.

**Your love echoes in the silence.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, And gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, Saying: take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus.

To you, O God, holy three-in-one, one-in-three, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,  
**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**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness;  
and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace.

People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it;  
God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song.

Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

### **COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN *Day by Day* (ELW 790)



1 Day by day, your mer-cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort  
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and  
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me  
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me  
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all  
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,  
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,  
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

## COMMUNION HYMN *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

**Amen**

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Faithful God,

you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink  
in the body and blood of your Son.

Now send us out to labor with you,  
in service to the world you have made,  
and among the people you have made your home,  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you.

God our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you.

God our Sustainer, who sparks hope for the hopeless blesses you.

God the Three in One and One in Three blesses you.

**God blesses you. Amen.**



**\*SENDING SONG** *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* (ACS 988)



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter joy like seed  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro - claim.



to bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.  
and, all our days, to cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
God's Spir - it has em - pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

**\*DISMISSAL**

People of God,  
you have already shared  
the arrival of God's goodness.

You carry the blessing of God,  
God, the First Whisper,  
Jesus, the Living Promise,  
Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts.

Now go into this world  
expecting God's justice  
and nurturing God's peace.  
Christ is with you  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## **Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Emma N**

**Acolyte: Carissa M**

**Ushers: Larry W**

**Greeters:**

**Offering: Ava N & Lydia M**

**Attendance last week: 60 + 5 zoom**

## **Notes for the day's texts:**

Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

## **Today's Music**

*O God beyond All Praising.* Text: Michael Perry, 1942-1996, Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

*Let Us Enter In.* Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943, Music: Ray Makeever. Augsburg Fortress.

*We Are an Offering.* Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957, Music: Dwight Liles. Word Music Group, Inc.

*Day by Day.* Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005, Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain .

*Blessed Assurance.* Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915, Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908. Public Domain.

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve.* Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, Music: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962. GIA Publications, Inc / MorningStar Music Publishers.

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## **Next Week's Readings**

*Daniel 12:1-3 The deliverance of God's people at the end*

*Psalm 16 My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my body shall rest in hope*

*Hebrews 10:11-25 The way to God opened through Christ's death*

*Mark 13:1-8 The end and the coming of the Son*