

## Historic Scripture Lessons for 🌐 2<sup>nd</sup>-Last Sunday of Church Year

**OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 40:9-11 NIV** You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and His Arm rules for Him. See, His Reward is with Him, and His Recompense accompanies Him. 11 He tends His flock like a Shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His Arms and carries them close to His Heart; he gently leads those that have young.

**EPISTLE II Thessalonians 1:3-10** We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. 4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. 6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the LORD Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of our LORD Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the LORD and from the majesty of His power 10 on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

### Gospel

**Matthew 25:31-46** "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 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, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.' 41 Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.' 44 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?' 45 He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.' 46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal Life."

Our Savior Lutheran Church 🌐 SL Lakeland, FL ✠ ELS  
(26<sup>th</sup> or) 3<sup>rd</sup>-Last Sunday in Trinity 🌐 Judgment (Day)  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ✠ 9:30 am



*Let me be Thine forever, Thou Faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace forever Thy Holy Name I'll bless.*



*Mariah Elizabeth Sawyer*

*Confirmed at Our Savior Lutheran of Lakeland*

# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

[www.ELS.org](http://www.ELS.org) = [www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org](http://www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org)

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809-4102

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.OSLLakeland.org](http://www.OSLLakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM  
 ✦ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✦ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

## November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Trinity-2<sup>nd</sup>-Last Judgment

**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:** If you are new to the area or our worship and have never communed with us before, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you are not currently a member of an ELS or WELS congregation, we ask that you please **wait to take communion until you can speak with our pastor.** Out of Christian love and consideration to you the guest, we want you to have the opportunity to learn what our church teaches about the Bible and Sacraments before you unite with us in taking Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding. Lord's blessings.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP Communion Service** Printed in red hymnal at p.15

Hymns	TLH# (v)	1 <sup>st</sup> Line of Hymn
Invocation Hymn	333 (3v)	Blessed Savior, Who hast Taught Me
Hymn of the Day	611 (7v)	The Day is Surely Drawing Near
Offertory Verse	334 (v1)	<i>Sing verse 1 Let Me Be Thine Forever</i>
Confirmation Hymn	334 (2,3)	<i>Sing verses 2-3 Lord Jesus my Salvation</i>
Communion Hymn	306 (8v)	Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Hast Prepared
Closing Hymn	337 (4v)	Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day

### Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the (24<sup>th</sup>) Sunday after Trinity

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
 Isaiah 13:1-22 Isa.14:14-21 Isa. 47:1-15 Dan.2:27-45 Daniel 7:1-28 Daniel 9:1-28  
 Rom. 11:1-33 2Th.1:11-2:17 2 Th.3:1-18 2Tim.3:1-17 2 Tim. 4:1-22 Matt. 24:1-14

### PROPERs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> LAST SUNDAY of CHURCH YEAR (TRINITY-26) ✦ NOV 15

**INTROIT** Save me, O God, by Your Name, and judge me by Your strength. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth. He shall reward evil to mine enemies; cut them off in Your truth. ...from Psalm 54:1-2

**COLLECT** O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, being ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your just Judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our LORD, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One True God...  
**C: ♪ A---men.**

**GRADUAL C:** He shall call to the heavens from above and to the earth that He may judge the people. The heavens shall declare His righteousness, for God is Judge Himself. Alleluia! Alleluia! The ransomed of the LORD shall come to Zion with everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and weeping shall fly away. Alleluia!  
 Ps. 50:4,6 & Isa. 5:10

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS (printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)

O.T. Isaiah 40:9-11 Our LORD will come in *strength*, but (also) in *love*.  
 Epi.2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 God strengthens our faith in face of adversity.  
 Gos. Matthew 25:31-46 The Son of Man *will come* and judge *all nations*.

### OFFERING HYMN VERSE (sung as the Offering is brought up) #334 Sing v.1

1. *Let me be Thine forever, Thou Faithful God and Lord;  
 Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word.  
 Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness,  
 And for such grace forever Thy Holy Name I'll bless.*

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daughter)	Health. Pray for healing and peace
Elma & Jim Hendricks	E&J's health and Elma's brother and sister-in-law	
Linda Kryszak	Linda's ongoing health. Plus stress of selling house	
Dee Kurczewski	(David) Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps	
Mary, Pam & Karen	Friends & family of DonnaM, all battling health issues	
Mariah E. Sawyer	We pray for this soul as today she is confirmed in faith!	
Vivian Temple	(Tom) Vivian showing improvement at home. Tom helping	
Janice Thomas	Had a very trying week, reacting to chemo #1 of round 2	
James & Delores Vanesky	Jim in Highland Lakes Rehab. & Delores' health	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	Elaine Jones	Ethel & Steve Wendt
Treaters	Mariah Sawyer Reception	Elma & Jim Hendricks
(Head) Usher	John Weber	John Weber

Statistics	Last Sunday	Year to date (Avg)
Sunday Attendance (Communion)	30 (-)	28 (24)
Bible Class Attend (Sunday School)	10 (!)	12 (.5)
Last Sunday Offering (Year To Date)	\$.00	\$.01
Average Sunday Needed (Budget)	\$.00	\$.01

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 11/15	8:30 am	Bible Study Sacraments, LORD'S SUPPER
2 <sup>nd</sup> -Last Sunday	9:30 am	Worship. Confirmation (+Communion)
& Confirmation!	10:45 ff...	Cake&Coffee Mariah Elizabeth Sawyer
Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Bible Study - Peace How to BibleStudy
Saturday, 11/21	10am -2 pm	Florida ELS Golf Classic at Kissimmee
Sunday, 11/22	8:30 am	Bible Study Sacraments, LORD'S SUPPER
Last Sunday of	9:30 am	Worship (NO Communion)
Trinity & ChurchYr	10:45 ff...	Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay & talk

Our Savior Elders are: Leroy Dux 940-3237; Jim Vanesky 644-7807;  
**John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 815-8892.** Please contact them.

Mariah Elizabeth Sawyer. Born: March 23, 2000, Baptized May 14, 2000

God's Blessings Mariah Sawyer. Confirmed: November 15, 2015

Next Sunday 11/22 Trinity-Last! (p.5, No L.S.) Hymn #s 10 609 644 72 660

**The WORDS of INSTITUTION** (*Pastor gives the Words of Institution*)

*P: ♪ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is My ✕ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My ✕ Blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

**The PAX DOMINI** (*Peace of the Lord*)

*P: ♪ The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: ♪ A- -men.*

**The AGNUS DEI** (*Lamb of God*)

**C: ♪ O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O- Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A-----men.**

**DISTRIBUTION.** Communicant members of Our Savior may now come forward.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** (*Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Hast Prepared #306 8 verses*)

(*After Distribution...*) **NUNC DIMITTIS** (*Lord, let us Now Depart*)

**C: ♪ Lord, now- lettest Thou Thy servant depart- in- peace, according to Thy Word. For mine- eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared- be-fore the face of all people, a Light- to light-en the Gentiles, and the Glo-ry of Thy people Is- -rael. Glory- be to the Father and to- the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it- was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall- be, world without end. A-men.**

**COLLECT of THANKSGIVING** *P: ♪ O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.*

**C: ♪ And His mercy endureth for-ev-er.**

*P: We give thanks to Thee, Lord God Almighty, that Thou hast refreshed us through these salutary gifts; and we beseech Thee that of Thy mercy Thou wouldst strengthen us through the same in faith toward Thee and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one true God now and forever.*

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The SALUTATION** *P: ♪ The Lord be with you. C: ♪ And with thy spir-it.*

**The BENEDICAMUS** *P: ♪ Let us bless the Lord. C: ♪ Thanks- be to God.*

**The BENEDICTION**

*P: ♪ The Lord bless thee and keep thee,  
The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee,  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give ✕ thee peace.*

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day #337 (4 verses)*

**SILENT PRAYER.** (CANDLES OUT) ✧ ✕ ✨ **ANNOUNCEMENTS; FELLOWSHIP.**

**The Order of the Holy Communion**



**I. The Service of Preparation ✕ TLH p.15**

**WELCOME** *Introduction* **THEME OF THIS SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR**

**OPENING HYMN** *Blessed Savior, Who hast Taught Me TLH #333 (3 verses)*

**The INVOCATION** (*Congregation please rise.*)

*P: ♪ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✕ and of the Holy Ghost.*

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The CONFESSION OF SINS**

*P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. ♪ Our help is in the Name of the Lord.*

**C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.**

*P: ♪ I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.*

**C: ♪ And Thou forgavest the iniquity of- my- sin.**

**C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserve Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

*P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son ✕ and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: ♪ A- -men.**

**The INTROIT** (*Entrance. Pastor speaks or chants. Words in bulletin*)

**The GLORIA PATRI** (*Glory be to God*)

**C: ♪ Glory- be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**KYRIE ELEISON** (*Lord Have Mercy*)

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

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (*Glory in the Highest*) *P: ♪ Glory be to God on high.*

**C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, Heav'n-ly King, God the Father Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son- of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon- us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the Right Hand of God the Father, have mercy upon- us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.**

**SALUTATION** (*Greeting*) *P: ♪ The Lord be with you. C: ♪ And with thy spir-it.*

**COLLECT** (*Prayer for This Sunday prayed by Pastor – words in bulletin*)

**C: (sung after the Collect) ♪ A- -men.** The congregation may be seated.

 **II. Service of The Word** *TLH, p.20* 

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 40:9-11 Our LORD come in strength *but also in love.*  
(*A Psalm, Anthem, or Hymn may be between the Old Testament & Epistle*)

**EPISTLE** 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 God strengthens our faith in adversity.

**GRADUAL C:** (*Congregation speaks Gradual with Pastor; words in bulletin*)

**C: (Sung after the Epistle & Gradual) ♪ Allelu-ia, Allelu-ia, Allelu – – ia!**

**The HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 25:31-46 The congregation please rise.

**C: (Sung before the Holy Gospel is read) ♪ Glory be to Thee, O LORD.**

**C: (Sung after the Holy Gospel is read) ♪ Praise- be to Thee, O CHRIST.**

**NICENE CREED** (*Our Confession of Faith*) **All say together:**

**C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the Third Day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the Right Hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end.**  
*(Nicene Creed continues on next page ↗)*

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.** (The congregation may be seated.)

**HYMN of the DAY** *The Day is Surely Drawing Near #611 Sing v. 1, 5-7*

**SERMON** (*...after Sermon*) **C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and- renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spir-it from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salva-tion; and uphold me with Thy- free Spirit. Amen.**

**The OFFERING & PRAYER of the CHURCH**

**OFFERTORY VERSE** (*Sung as offering brought forward. Please rise. #334, verse 1*)

**C: ♪ 1. Let me be Thine forever, Thou Faithful God and Lord; Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word. Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness, And for such grace forever Thy Holy Name I'll bless. A-men.**



**III. Service of Holy Communion** *TLH, p.24* **PREFACE**



*P: ♪ The Lord be with you.*

**C: ♪ And- with thy- spirit.**

*P: ♪ Lift up your hearts.*

**C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*P: ♪ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: ♪ It is meet and right so to do.*

**The PROPER PREFACE and SANCTUS** (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)

*P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, ...(Proper Preface)... Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of Heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, evermore praising Thee and saying:*

**C: ♪ Ho- -ly, ho- -ly, ho-ly, Lord God of Sab-a-oth;**

**Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the high-est.**

**The LORD'S PRAYER** (*Pastor prays the petitions of the Lord's Prayer*)

*P: ♪ 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;*

**C: ♪ For Thine is the Kingdom and the Pow'r and the Glory forever and ever. A- -men.**



## The Rite of Confirmation



*P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you, to the very end of the age."*

*Mariah Elizabeth Sawyer, you have been Baptized and you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's bidding. We now celebrate the fulfillment of His bidding with thankful hearts, rejoicing to confess the faith into which you were Baptized and which you yourself will now confess before God and His Church.*

*Jesus said: "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will deny him before My Father in heaven."*

*Lift up your heart therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what, in the Name of the Lord, as a minister of His Church, I will now ask you.*

*P: Do you today in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?*

**M: I do.**

*P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?*

**M: I do.**

*P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?*

**M: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

*P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?*

**M: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;**

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and was buried;**

**He descended into hell; the Third Day He Rose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

*P: Do you believe in the Holy Ghost?*

**M: Yes, I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life ✕ everlasting.**

*P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?*

**M: I do so intend with the help of God.**

*P: Do you hold all the prophetic (Old Testament) and apostolic (New Testament) Scriptures (the Bible) to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is drawn from them, as you have learned to know it from the **Small Catechism**, to be faithful and true?*

**M: I do.**

*P: Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this **Our Savior Lutheran** congregation?*

**M: I do.**

*P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the Divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His Means of Grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?*

**M: I do so intend by the grace of God.**

*P: Then give your hand as a pledge and promise, and kneel to receive the blessing. **Mariah Elizabeth Sawyer**, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God. Mariah's Confirmation verse: **Philippians 4:(12 &)13** *P: 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.**

**Mariah: PHI 4:13 I can do everything through Him who gives Me strength.**

*P: Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, **Mariah Sawyer** as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of Our Savior congregation, to share with us in all the gifts, rights and privileges our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service.*

*Let us pray for the newly confirmed: (Congregation please rise for prayer.)*

*P: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness and mercy in bringing Your daughter, Mariah, to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling her both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving Name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, she may continue steadfast and victorious to the Day when all who have fought the good fight of faith will receive the Crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives; and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

*P: The almighty and most merciful God: Father, ✕ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.*

**C: Amen.**

**CONFIRMATION HYMN: Let Me Be Thine Forever #334 Sing verses 2& 3**

**2. Lord Jesus, my Salvation, - My Light, my Life divine,  
My only Consolation, - Oh, make me wholly Thine!**

**For Thou hast dearly bought me - With blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since Thou hast sought me, - Eternal life obtain.**

**3. And Thou, O Holy Spirit, - My Comforter and Guide,  
Grant that in Jesus' merit - I always may confide,  
Him to the end confessing - Whom I have known by faith.  
Give me Thy constant blessing - And grant a Christian death.  
Amen.**

**TRINITY-2<sup>ND</sup>-LAST 1 Thess. 1:1-10 & Phil. 4:(12-13) CONFIRMATION 11.15.15**

INTRODUCTION ...Look at the bulletin cover picture – has nothing to do with 2<sup>nd</sup>-Last Sunday in Trinity (Judgment Day) – rather (24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Trinity) Jesus raising a little girl from the dead – but Can that picture apply to today(?) – **Mariah Elizabeth Sawyer** – born March 23, 2000 – but **Baptized May 14, 2000** Jesus raised her...

The time is short so we can't waste it on unimportant stuff. We don't know when the Lord will return. We also don't know when the end of our time on this earth will come. The Lord could return while I am preaching this sermon. You could go home tonight and the Lord could call you home in your sleep.

The time is short and Paul says that the Thessalonians are an example of how to use the time. They are making the most of every opportunity. What are they doing? Paul says that the word of the Lord sounded forth from them. This means that they were confessing their faith, not only to each other, but their confession sounded forth from them into the world around them.

What is that confession? Paul calls it "**The Gospel.**" In Paul's day, this Gospel turned the world upside down! Paul came to Thessalonica and told how he had seen the risen Lord. He told how the blood of Jesus shed on the cross had paid the debt of our sin ... and not only our sin, but the sin of the entire world. He told how he had seen the risen Lord and received the gift of forgiveness that Jesus has earned for all people. He brought this Gospel to the people in Thessalonica and now they also confessed that they believed in the Jesus proclaimed by this Gospel. They mimicked Paul and they even mimicked the Lord Jesus as they confessed the Gospel to the people around them.

When Paul says that the Word of the Lord sounded forth from you, he used the Greek word from which we get the English word "echo." An echo simply bounces back the original sound. **Our confession echoes God's Word.** We don't (try to) create our own confession. We just echo what God has said.

The echo is actually quite simple: the Word of God teaches that I was conceived and born sinful and under the power of the devil until Christ claimed me as His own. I would have been lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for my sin, and the Holy Spirit has given me faith so that I trust Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sin. Therefore, I have the clear promise of God that I shall not perish but I already have eternal life. The promise of eternal life is not just for me, but it is for all people. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

Paul noted that part of their confession was that they had turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead. Thessalonica was only fifty miles from Mount Olympus—the supposed residence of the Greek gods. If you lived, then, in Thessalonica and were going to plant crops you would pray to the god of the harvest, the god of soil, and the god who brought rain or sun-shine. If you were

going on a business trip you would pray to the god who provided safe travel and the god who offered favor in business dealings.

But when the Holy Spirit opened the Thessalonian's hearts to the gospel, they realized that all their idols could not offer a real solution to their greatest problem. They discovered that their greatest problem wasn't their harvest and it wasn't their business dealings. Their greatest problem was that they had offended a holy and just God. But Paul told them that Jesus poured out his blood to forgive them. He rose on the third day to embrace them. And He is coming again to restore them.

Our idols become quite manifest when we look at the culture **around us at this time of year.** How early in the morning did people line up for sales on "**Black Friday?**" Every year, people are willing to experience the inconvenience of camping out at the store at insane hours in the morning. Even willing to risk their lives. All to get something that will eventually probably end up in the trash.

Unfortunately, we have way more than three idols in our culture. It may be a lover, a Lexus, our labor, or our leisure time. The Lord may return at any time. We don't have time for competing gods. Paul admonishes us to follow the example of the Thessalonians and turn from our idols. He admonishes us to turn to the Living God instead, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

There is an old saying about sports: "On any given day, any team can beat any other team." A football game or any other sporting event for that matter can have any kind of an outcome. The promise of God is not like that. We know the outcome. There is no doubt about it! Jesus rescues us from the coming wrath.

People who have survived fires in the wild have a small idea what the coming wrath might be like. Sometimes you hear of someone who survived because they started a backfire. They saw the smoke on the horizon and realized that the fire was coming faster than even a horse could run. The only choice was to start a small, controlled fire that would use up the fuel around them before the big fire came. They stood in an ever widening circle of blackened earth and waited for the fire to come. The fire was terrifying as it drew near, but it bypassed the people who stood where the fuel had already been burned.

When Christ returns the judgment of God will be like that fire. It will be powerful and destructive. But if we stand in the burned over place we will be saved. And where, you ask, is the burned over place? The burned over place is the foot of the cross. There Jesus has already endured the fire of God's wrath. He has used up the fuel of our sin. So it is at the cross we stand.

CONCLUSION The time is always short, for no one knows when his time will be over. The proclamation is what it has always been. Jesus Himself proclaimed [[Mark 1:14b-15](#)] the Gospel of God saying, "*The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.*" **Amen. SDG**