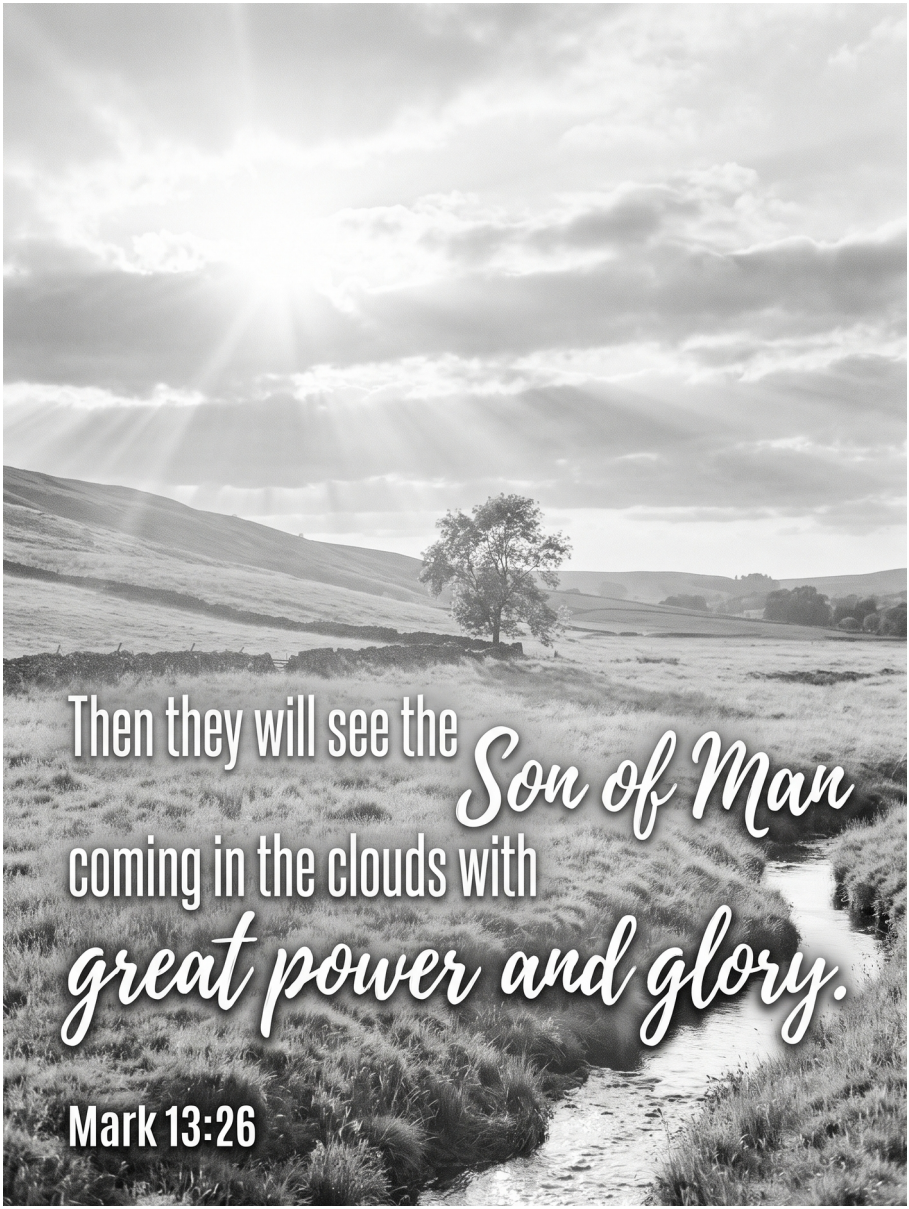


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As We Gather

We live by clocks, calendars, and countdowns, yet God never hands us a timetable for the end of the age. In today's Gospel from Mark 13, Jesus speaks candidly about the final day—an hour no one on earth or in heaven can circle on a calendar. Left to ourselves, that kind of uncertainty easily breeds anxiety or spiritual drowsiness. Thankfully, our Lord doesn't leave us pacing the floor in guesswork. Right now, through His unshakable Word, He gathers us to steady our hearts on the Savior who already stepped into this world for us and promises to come again. Set down this week's worries, and listen closely as He meets us today.

✢ Preparation for Worship ✢

Hymn 703 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Ps 130:5; Lk 12:40; 2 Tim 1:12; Isa 25:9

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
C **And in His word I do hope.**
P Therefore you also be ready,
C **for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**
P For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed,
C **for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.**
P And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us.
C **This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."**

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, we live between Christ's humble first coming and His glorious return. Because the day and hour remain hidden, our sinful flesh is tempted to grow spiritually drowsy or live in fear of an uncertain tomorrow. Let us therefore examine ourselves before God, confessing our sins and trusting in the mercy of the Savior whom we do know—Jesus Christ, who never fails those who call upon Him.

C **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. We have not watched and prayed as we ought, but have grown drowsy in devotion and anxious about the future. We have failed to love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves, and we justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. Yet we cling to the Savior You have made known to us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive us all our sins, awaken us by Your Spirit, and keep us steadfast until He appears. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Though you do not know the hour of His final return, you know the One who comes to you today with grace and peace. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

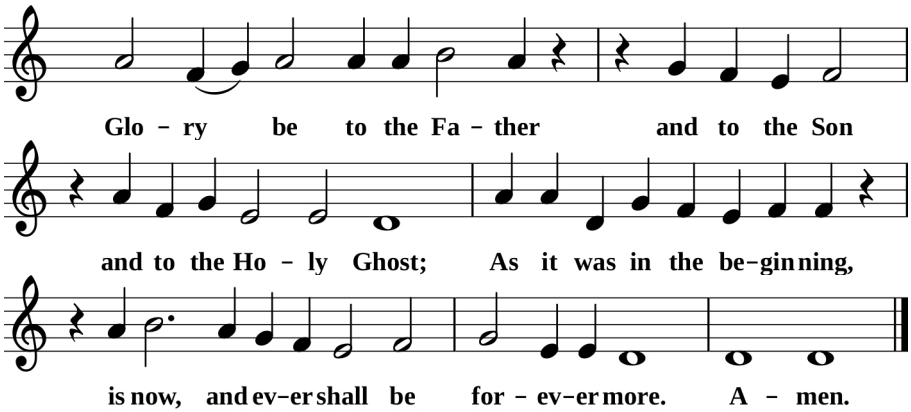
C **Amen.**

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Glory be to the Father

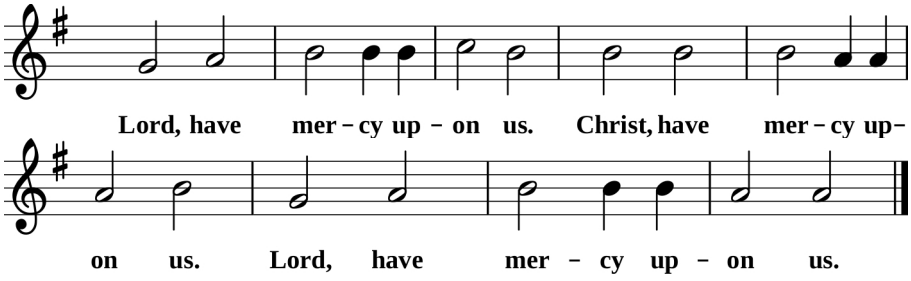
Gloria Patri

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



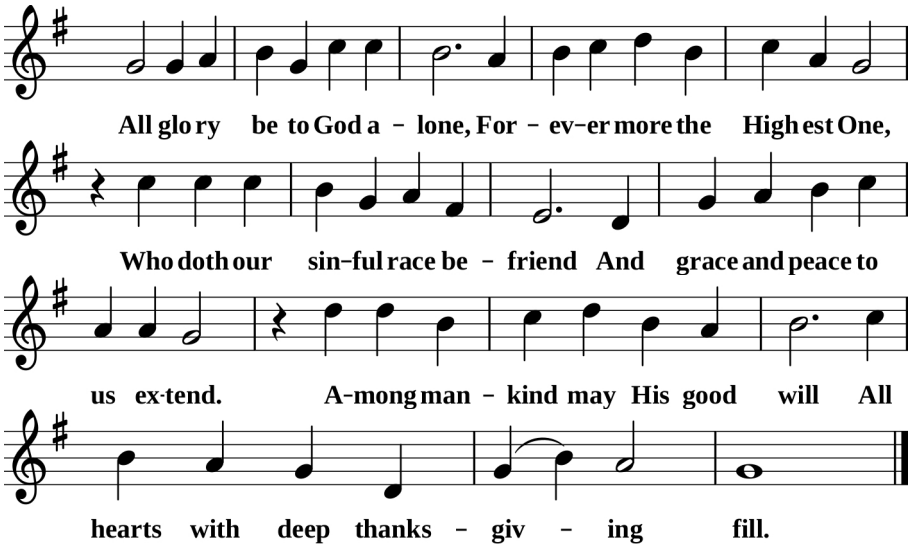
Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)



Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray…
… who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

[1] Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That
the mountains might shake at Your presence— [2] As fire burns brushwood,
As fire causes water to boil— To make Your name known to Your
adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence! [3] When You did
awesome things for which we did not look, You came down, The mountains
shook at Your presence. [4] For since the beginning of the world Men have not
heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You,
Who acts for the one who waits for Him. [5] You meet him who rejoices and
does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways. You are indeed
angry, for we have sinned— In these ways we continue; And we need to be
saved. [6] But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are
like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have
taken us away. [7] And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs
himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us,
And have consumed us because of our iniquities. [8] But now, O LORD, You
are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work
of Your hand. [9] Do not be furious, O LORD, Nor remember iniquity forever;
Indeed, please look—we all are Your people!

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 80:1-7

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock;
C **You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!**
P Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
C **Stir up Your strength, And come and save us!**
P Restore us, O God;
C **Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!**
P O LORD God of hosts,
C **How long will You be angry Against the prayer of Your people?**
P You have fed them with the bread of tears,
C **And given them tears to drink in great measure.**
P You have made us a strife to our neighbors,
C **And our enemies laugh among themselves.**
P Restore us, O God of hosts;
C **Cause Your face to shine, And we shall be saved!**



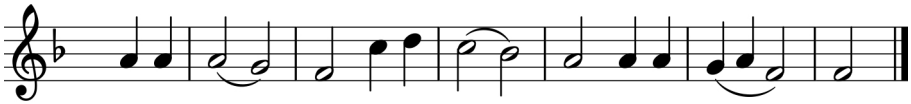
Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I
thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given
to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all
utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was
confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the
revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end,
that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is
faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

58 (1, 4-6, 9) – O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee

Sermon Text

Mark 13:24-37

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the
moon will not give its light; 25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in
the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in
the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then He will send His angels,
and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of
earth to the farthest part of heaven. 28 "Now learn this parable from the fig

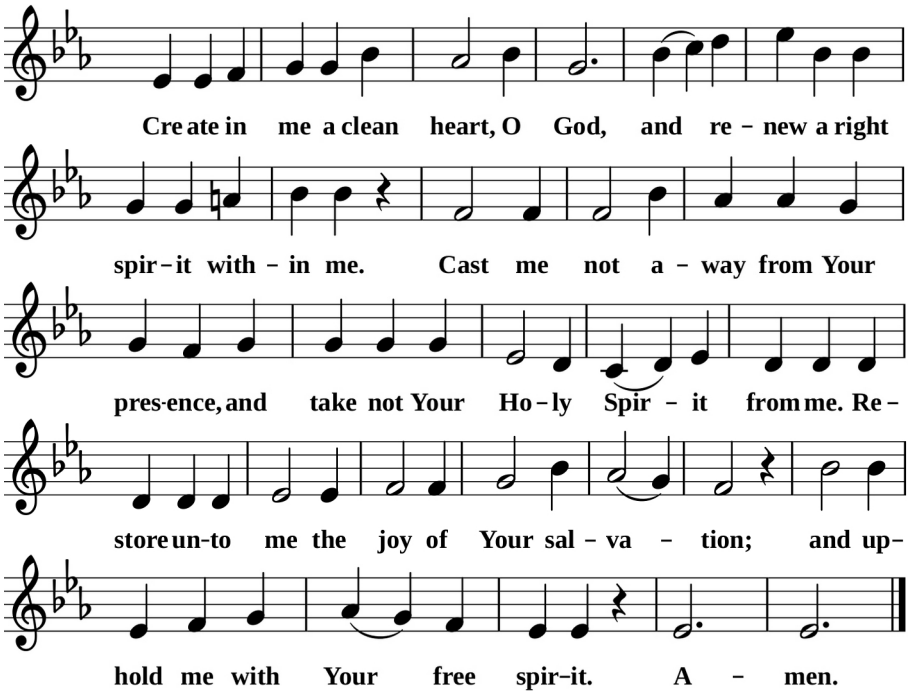
tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! [30] Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. [32] "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. [34] It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. [35] Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—[36] lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. [37] And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"



Sermon

You Don't Know *When*.
You Do Know *Who*.

Offertory



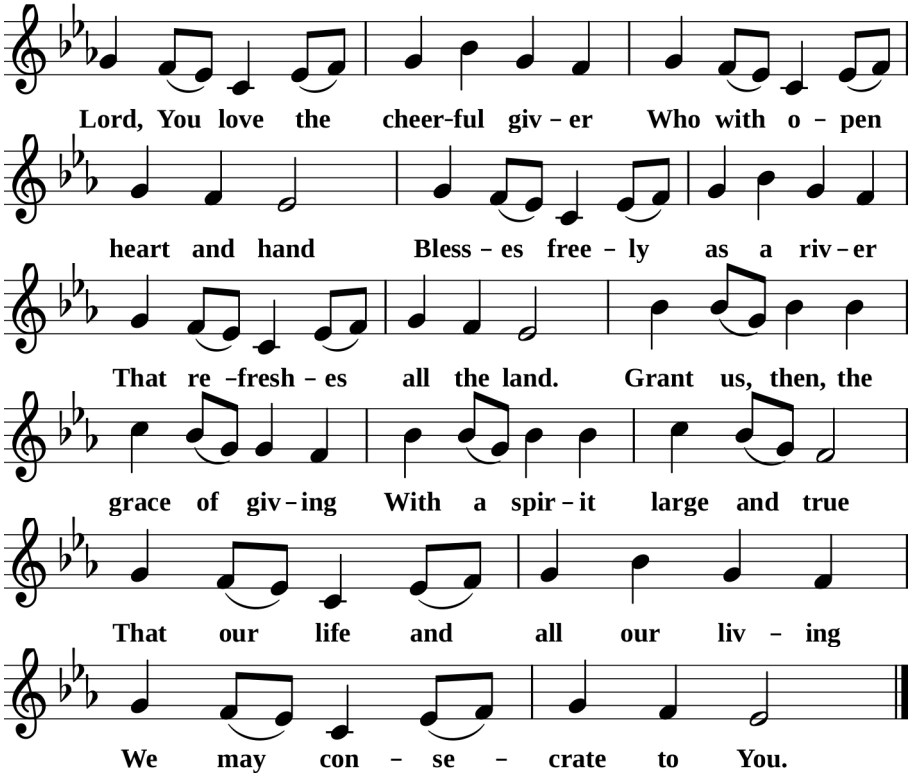
Hymn

606 – O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking

Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)



General Prayer

The 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.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Hymn

46 – On What Has Now Been Sown

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar		
November 29	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
December 2	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 6	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck
	12:30 pm	Board of Trustees/Church Council
December 9	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 11	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
December 13	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 3** – Annual Voters' Meeting
- **February 7** – Education/Elders

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.

🎁 **Staff Christmas Gifts**: We are collecting money for our pastor and teachers for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, please provide money to Ed Morris or John Kuehne by December 6.

Midweek Advent Worship: "Fear Not! The Comfort of the Incarnation: Amid the rush, noise, and anxieties of December, God invites you to step aside into the quiet refuge of His Word. Throughout the Scriptures, whenever the Lord breaks into our fallen world with the promise of salvation, His messengers speak the same comforting words: "Fear not!"

Join us this Advent for our three-week midweek worship series, "Fear Not! The Comfort of the Incarnation." Together, we will gather around Scripture, prayer, and song to hear how the Savior born in Bethlehem casts out our deepest fears:

- **Wednesday, December 2 — Fear Not Your Past**
  Finding complete forgiveness in the Lord who calls us by name and redeems us (Isaiah 43:1–7).
- **Wednesday, December 9 — Fear Not the Impossible**
  Trusting the Almighty God whose saving power is made perfect in weakness (Luke 1:26–37).

  Wednesday, December 16 — Fear Not the Future
  Resting in the unshakable promise of Emmanuel—"God with us" (Romans 8:31–39).

All services will be held at 2:00 PM and will also be streamed live online for those who cannot attend in person. Take time to be refreshed by the Gospel as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Christ's birth!

Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Most headlines bring weariness, not peace. Next Sunday, Mark cuts through the noise with history's greatest headline: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Step into the wilderness with us to hear a rugged messenger in camel's hair crying out, "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight." Why does God send John before Jesus? Because our crooked hearts need the honest call of repentance before we can rejoice in our Savior. Join us for "The Beginning of the Good News" (Mark 1:1–8) to receive the comfort of "the remission of sins" brought by the Savior who is mightier than our sin.

Kinship Sponsors Needed: After the CLC declared fellowship with the Bangladesh Lutheran Church Mission (BLCM) in 2020, the CLC Board of Missions has been working together with the BLCM to establish a local seminary for pastoral training. There is currently one BLCM pastor serving 1,715 souls across 19 congregations and 14 preaching stations in a country that is 95% Muslim. However, this January, 14 men will begin their pastoral training as the inaugural seminary class of the BLCM. Sponsors are needed to help these men receive their training so that they may join in the abundant work in Bangladesh. The cost of a sponsorship will be $60 per month. To begin a sponsorship or for more information, please text, call, or email Dan Roehl. (Cell: 507-381-2042; Email: danroehl@hotmail.com)

✢ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✢

November 16–21, 2026

Monday - *Matthew 24:36-44*
Jesus compares His return to the sudden flood in the days of Noah, when the world ignored God's warning until judgment came (vv. 37–39). Rather than living in spiritual carelessness, He urges His disciples to "Watch therefore" (v. 42) and "be ready" (v. 44).

Tuesday - *Romans 13:11-14*
Paul urges Christians to wake from spiritual slumber because "our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (v. 11). As the night of this world gives way to Christ's eternal day, we cast off sinful works and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 14).

Wednesday - *Isaiah 2:1-5*
Isaiah foretells the Gospel age when people from all nations stream to the Lord's house to learn His ways (vv. 2–3). Rejoicing in the peace God brings through His Messiah, the prophet invites His people, "come and let us walk in the light of the LORD" (v. 5).

Thursday - *Zephaniah 3:14-20*
Zephaniah calls Zion to rejoice (v. 14) because "The LORD has taken away your judgments" (v. 15) and dwells among His people as King. What comfort to know that "The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save" and "will quiet you with His love" (v. 17)!

Friday - *Luke 21:25-36*
While terrifying cosmic signs will cause the unbelieving world to tremble, Jesus tells believers, "look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (v. 28). Anchored in His unfailing Word (v. 33), we watch and pray until we stand before the Son of Man (v. 36).

Saturday - *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*
Paul thanks God for the Thessalonians' faith and prays that the Lord would make them "increase and abound in love to one another and to all" (v. 12). Only God can establish our hearts "blameless in holiness" before our Father at Christ's return (v. 13).



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