

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 24
SECOND SUNDAY of END TIME: LAST JUDGEMENT

PSALM 146

**Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men who cannot save.

When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is the Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the Lord, who remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free,

**The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.**

The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord.

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

HEBREWS 8:1-9:28

Jesus the Author of a Better Covenant

Why did God promise to make a new covenant?

What would be the chief benefit of the new covenant?

How is Jesus a better mediator between humans and God than the high priests of the old covenant?

MARK 12:1-44

Jesus' teaching shows Him to be the Christ

What does Jesus mean saying "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's"

What things belong to Caesar and what things belong to God?

What was significant about the widow's offering in comparison to the other people's offerings?

"THE END is NEAR"

Have you ever seen a picture, or cartoon of a person holding a sign that read "the end is near?" Although they are often the object of humour in the media, they are correct. The end is near. We live in the last times. The end is near. It gets closer with each passing day. The end is near, but this doesn't mean we can or even should try to predict when that will come. Jesus said, "*No one knows about that day or hour.*"

The end began when Jesus rose, descended into hell and ascended into the heavens. The end will come when He returns and makes all things new. The end is near and with each passing day the judgement draws ever closer. And that's good news, because as the author of Hebrews says, Jesus will appear at the last judgement "*to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*"

These are the last days, because in them Jesus fulfilled the righteous commands of the Old Covenant, by living a life free of sin in perfect obedience to the Law. These are the last days, because on the cross Jesus made a New Covenant of forgiveness, mercy and peace with God, offering Himself as the sacrifice that atoned for the sin of the world. His death and resurrection marked the beginning of the end of this age of sin, sorrow and death.

He will return again at the end of the age to fulfill the work of redemption, create new heavens and a new earth the home of righteousness and call all who believe to rise to a new life; in which sorrow and sadness have passed away and joy and gladness will not cease. The end is near, nearer now than when we first believed. Praise the Lord and pray He hastens the day of His coming. It will bring a judgement of pardon and peace and the fullness of redemption to everlasting life for all who believe and are baptized in His name.

“WAKE AWAKE, for NIGHT is FLYING” (Public Domain)

Wake, awake, for night is flying. The watchmen on the heights are crying:

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight hears the welcome voices. And at the thrilling cry rejoices:

“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?

**The bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
With bridal care yourselves prepare, to meet the Bride-groom who is near.”**

Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing;

She wakes, she rises from her gloom.

For her Lord comes down all glorious. The strong in grace, in truth victorious;

Her star is ris’n, her light is come.

Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son. Hail! Hosanna!

We enter all the wedding hall, to eat the Supper at your call.

Now let all the heavens adore Thee.

Let saints and angels sing before Thee with harp and cymbals’ clearest tone.

Of one peer each shining portal, where joining with the choir immortal,

we gather round Thy radiant throne.

No eye has seen the light. No ear has heard the might of Thy glory;

Therefore, will we eternally sing hymns of joy and praise to Thee!

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, bless us with your Spirit of peace and assurance as we contemplate the last days, the final judgement and your promise to return and to make us and all things new. Help us to discern the times. Help us to season our speech with your word. By your Holy Spirit give us wisdom and courage that we may speak your word of forgiveness and salvation that others might be encouraged in faith and that those who do not yet have faith, may come to know you as Saviour. In your name we pray. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

THE CREED

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

BENEDICTION Hebrews 9:28

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement, 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.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

How many coins did the widow place into the temple treasury as her offering?

Where did Jesus tell Peter to get the coin with which He paid their temple tax?

What did Jesus use to chase the buyers and sellers away when He cleansed the temple?

Answers to last week’s Quiz

Gomer (Hosea 1:3).

He told him not to publicly mourn her death, as a sign that Judah would not be able to publicly mourn when the Babylonians came (Ezekiel 24:15-18).

Priscilla (Acts 18:1-2).