

THE LAST SUNDAY of the CHURCH YEAR
NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Introit  *Ps. 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12a;*
antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13b NIV

We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.
O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;*
let me know how fleeting | I am!
Behold, you have made my days a few | handbreadths,*
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore you.
And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*My hope | is in you.
Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!
Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear | to my cry;*
hold not your peace | at my tears!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
We are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, so govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your glorious return, we may persevere in both faith and holiness of living; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual *Rev. 7:14b; Ps. 84:5*

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

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Old Testament Reading*Isaiah 51:4–6*

⁴“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

Epistle*Revelation 1:4b–8*

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from
the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.
To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a
kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.
Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those
who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so.
Amen.
⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who
is to come, the Almighty.”

Holy Gospel*Mark 13:24–37*

²⁴[Jesus said:] “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and
the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be
shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and
glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will
pass away, but my words will not pass away.
³²“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when
the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts
his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay
awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—³⁶lest
he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay
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