

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday in Advent – December 6, 2020

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:8–9

When you were little, did it seem like it took forever to be Christmas morning? I remember clearly thinking how slowly time passed, leading up to Christmas. The excitement of Christmas morning, of opening gifts, and having a special breakfast, made it seem like time inched along like a snail on a leaf. As the years have passed, I have been amazed at how time flies. As every season changes I say to myself, “I can’t believe it’s December,” or “I can’t believe it’s almost the end of another year!” Perhaps this is because I have more time under my belt. Does time go faster because we have lived more days? As children we have lived less of life and proportionately a day seems like it takes longer. But as we age, we have more days that have passed and so comparatively, time goes quicker.

If my theory is correct about the ratio of time lived versus how fast or slow time seems to move, then it’s no wonder St. Peter said, “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” Time for the Eternal One is relative to God’s eternal existence. I mention this because I hear many believers ask about the timing of Christ’s return and the timing of the future resurrection. Many wonder if when a loved one dies, “Is she in heaven right now? Or does she have to wait for the final resurrection?” It is a normal human thought to ponder our own, and our loved one’s whereabouts after death. But time is relative. It may be a thousand years to us, but the blink of an eye to God - or vice versa. What we really want to know is, “Is my loved one with God?” The answer to that is easy: Yes!

We need not worry about the timing of the resurrection or Christ’s return. What we need to focus on is what Paul said in Romans 8, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The Lord is not slow or delaying working out his will for us. He is perfectly able, capable, and willing, to fulfill his promises. It’s just that our time is not his time, and his time is certainly not ours. May we patiently pass time. Amen.

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NEW! Livestreaming Service

Bible Lutheran is now livestreaming the 10am worship service every week.

This allows those who cannot come to the building to participate in the service in “real time” by accessing a video livestream through a link on the website. The service is also recorded and posted on the website (worship page) for viewing at any time.

www.biblelutheranchurch.org

The Sunday bulletin and children’s bulletin are posted on the website each week and can be downloaded and printed out.

The “family service” sheet is no longer be available.

If you need help accessing the Livestream Service, call Pastor Dave: (912) 661-8735.

Prepare the Way

Find the 42 bold words from Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

P A R T S U T L J P S C Z P A
O Y E Y H T R O W Z H G B P G
O L V D X E R C T R T N E P O
T O I Z U D E U I F A I L R S
S H R S A J H S W O P Z T E P
E O A N N E T T I R W I C A E
U N T I E R A S O G R T O C L
F E M S A U E C I I T P N H E
W Y I I L S L F P V Q A F E M
Q N G Y R A I S A E T B E D A
K H H W I L D E R N E S S I C
T O T M A E O N E J E S U S
I J I G H M G P A S V O I C E
C N E R A P E R P S N J N B Q
G D R O L R E T A W A Y G I L

The beginning of the **gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**. As it is **written in Isaiah** the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will **prepare your way**, the **voice** of one crying in the **wilderness**: ‘Prepare the way of the **Lord**, make his **paths straight**.’” John appeared, **baptizing** in the wilderness and **proclaiming** a baptism of **repentance** for the **forgiveness** of sins. And all the country of **Judea** and all **Jerusalem** were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the **river Jordan**, **confessing** their sins. Now **John** was clothed with **camel’s hair** and wore a **leather belt** around his waist and ate **locusts** and **wild honey**. And he **preached**, saying, “After me comes he who is **mightier** than I, the **strap** of whose **sandals** I am not **worthy** to **stoop** down and **untie**. I have baptized you with **water**, but he will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit**.”

The Day of the Lord

Find the 41 bold words from 2 Peter 3:9-14 (ESV)

H D O U G H T G S D E E F W B
S S T E D F N S W S A C U I E
I S R V C I E E E S R A L L L
M K O S T N L I N A T E F L O
E R S I I L A I H P H P I D V
L O A L S H J T G T O N L E E
B W D S H O L I N E S S L V D
R O T N E I T A P E N S V L E
G H E A V E N S P X P T B O S
T O W A R D P R A O R E U S O
S S E N S U O E T H G I R S P
H C A E R M S A R L Y M N I X
E M O C I S L O W I O A E D E
Y O U S D N U O F A S R D L Z
L O E T U O H T I W Y H D P T

The Lord is **not slow** to **fulfill his promise** as some count slowness, but is **patient toward you**, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should **reach repentance**. But the **day of the Lord** will **come** like a **thief**, and then the heavens will **pass away** with a **roar**, and the heavenly bodies will be **burned up** and **dissolved**, and the earth and the **works** that are done on it will be **exposed**. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what **sort** of people **ought** you to be in lives of **holiness** and **godliness**, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will **melt** as they burn! But according to his promise we are **waiting for new heavens** and a new **earth** in which **righteousness dwells**. Therefore, **beloved**, since you are waiting for these, be **diligent** to be **found** by him **without spot** or **blemish**, and at **peace**.