



Theme: KNOW THE SIGNS OF THE END TIME

Call to worship:

I will Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, my soul!

² I will praise him as long as I live;

I will sing to my God all my life. **PSALM 146:1-2**

Hymn STF 79 – I'll praise my maker while I've breath

1. I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers;
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
While life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.
2. How happy they whose hopes rely
On Israel's God, Who made the sky
And earth and seas with all their train:
His truth forever stands secure;
He saves th' oppressed, He feeds the
poor,
And none shall find His promise vain.
3. The Lord pours eyesight on the blind;
The Lord supports the fainting mind;
He sends the labouring conscience
peace;
He helps the stranger in distress,
The widow, and the fatherless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.
4. I'll praise Him while He lends me
breath,
And when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler pow'rs;
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
While life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

Hymn STF 507 – O for a heart to praise my God

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that always feels thy blood
so freely spilt for me:

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
my great Redeemer's throne;
where only Christ is heard to speak,
where Jesus reigns alone:

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part
from him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine;
perfect and right and pure and good —
a copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
come quickly from above;
write thy new name upon my heart,
thy new best name of Love.

Prayers: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving.

Dear Lord,

yours is the picture we will put in the frame of our lives;
yours are the promises we will trust and believe;
yours is the kingdom we will pray for; you are the king we will serve faithfully,
with all our heart and mind and strength, for you are the king who loves and calls us.
You are the source of our lives. We praise you! We adore you! And we worship you!

God of justice and truth,

you bless those who turn to you in sorrow for the things they have got wrong.

We turn to you now, and trust in your promise of forgiveness.

Thank you for hearing our prayer, for guiding our future,
and being a God in whom we can feel safe and strong.

Thanks a lot for the opportunity today to be in your presence. In Jesus' name. Amen!

Hymn: STF 250 – Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day his sweet voice sounding,
Saying, "Christian, follow me."

As of old apostles heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home, and toil, and kindred,
Leaving all for His dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain worlds golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us—By your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
Serve and love you best of all.

Scriptures:

Daniel 12:1-3

"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"

² "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."

³ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"

⁵ Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

Hymn STF 322 – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear name - the rock on which I build
My shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace.

Jesus! my shepherd, brother, friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

Reflection - DANIEL 12:1-3, HEBREWS 10:19-25, MARK 13:1-8

Today is Christ the king Sunday but I've decided to go other way. So the theme for our reflection is "knowing the signs of the end time."

A sign is an occurrence of an event that indicates the probable presence or occurrence of something else. We can rephrase the theme as occurrences in our world that indicates that the end time is approaching. What then is the end time? The end time marks, the Second and final appearance of Jesus Christ.

So, in discussing the theme we shall ponder over the following points:

The signs of the end time are not hidden.

The signs of the end call for repentance and a life of perseverance

The signs of the end time are meant to keep us watchful and wise even as we await the judgment day .

Firstly, Jesus does not want us to be taken unawares, therefore He reveals the signs of the end to us through His disciples. Jesus revealed that some of the remarkable signs of the end time are " *Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. When you hear of*

wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains." (Mark 13:6-8).

Similarly, the Lord revealed to Daniel that during end-time "... *Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.*" (Daniel 12:1) A believer has no excuse on the day of the Lord since all that will precede the day of the Lord (the day of salvation and judgement) have been made known through the Biblical or Scriptural revelation.

It is for this reason Joshua admonishes us "*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*" (Joshua 1:8-9). A believer must read the Scripture and pray without ceasing to know the will and plans of God for the present and future. We are already experiencing all that Jesus had said. We have charlatans and agents of the anti-Christ using deceiving people and doing all manner of things in the name of Jesus Christ. We have all manner of wars including physical and deadly battles involving nuclear weapons and sophisticated artillery, economic or trade wars, ethnic, racial, class, ideological and religious wars happening all in the world today.

Secondly, if the signs Jesus Christ revealed are happening then the signs of the end-time call for repentance for sinners and perseverance for believers even as we await the second coming of Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews encourages that "*Therefore, brothers and sisters since we have the confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*" (Hebrews 10:19-23)

Beloved in the Lord as we witness the signs of the end time, let us not think of ourselves but "*let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another —and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*" (Hebrews 10:24-25). The best gift you can give a person in this world is to help him or her to come to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ. It is, for this reason, He commissioned us when He said that "*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.*" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Be-lovers in Christ, the signs of the end time are only alerting you and me to repent and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and in the vein alerting we those are already in the Lord to persevere in faith and overcome the temptations that the signs of the end time will bring upon us.

Thirdly, the signs of the end time are meant to keep us on watch and be wise even as we await the final appearance. It is for this reason Jesus admonishes us to "*Watch out that no one deceives you.*" (Mark 13:5). Again in Daniel, the Lord revealed to Daniel that "*Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars*

forever and ever." (Daniel 12:3). My dear friend, as we witness the signs of the end time, you must be watchful and wise a Christian husband, child, public servant, businessman or woman so that the world will not corrupt you and make you indulge in sexual immorality, bribery, drunkenness, and addiction of all kinds that will make it impossible for you to inherit the Kingdom of God for the Lord revealed to Daniel that *"But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book —will be delivered.* (Daniel 12:1).

I need you to reflect on our relationship with God and ponder over these questions. Have you pleased God with your whole life? Do you believe your relationship with God, your name is written in the Book of everlasting life? If you are part of the living today then you have the choice to make.

Paul admonishes us that *"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose."* (Philippians 2:12-13)

In conclusion, my dear friend, the signs of the end time are not hidden from us but revealed to us through Scripture. The signs of the end-time call for repentance and a life of perseverance. Last, but not the least, the signs of the end are meant to keep us watchful and wise even as we await the judgment day. May the Lord continue to guide our steps to overcome and persevere through the signs of the end time and counted among the citizens of His Kingdom. Bless you and peace be with you! In the name of Christ, Amen!

Hymn STF 467 – I need thee every hour

I need Thee every hour,
Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford.

*I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
Oh, bless me now, my Savior!
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour,
Stay Thou near by;
Temptations lose their power
When Thou art nigh.

I need Thee ...

I need Thee every hour,
In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
Or life is vain.

I need Thee ...

I need Thee every hour,
Teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises
In me fulfill.

I need Thee ...

Prayers: Intercession

King of love,
We long for your kingdom where the weak are defended.
We long for your kingdom of justice and freedom.
We long for your kingdom of peace.
we pray for all who feel alone or in despair
that you would be present in their suffering.

King of love,
through the challenges all around us, keep our eyes fixed on you.
We pray for our friends and our families in all their needs and their joys;

and we pray for our church communities that we would be known by our love and welcome all in need just as you have welcomed us.

We long for your kingdom where we will all be at home.

Lord, help us to hear your voice! In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen!

Lord's prayer – Our Father, who art in heaven...

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Hymn STF 548 – Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story ...

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Saviour am happy and blest-
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story ...

Blessing:

May the Lord bless you and take care of you;
May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;
May the Lord look on you with favour and give you peace.
In the name of Christ, Amen!