

## **Didache Divine Service**

### **Session 9**

Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

#### **The Apostles' Creed: The Second Article—The Second Coming and Judgment**

- I. Invocation and Prayer**
- II. Hymn: 508 “The Day Is Surely Drawing Near” (Stanzas 1-4)**
- III. Bible Reading: The Second Coming and Judgment—Mark 13:1-37**
  1. The Temple in Jerusalem gives occasion for Jesus to teach on two things:
    - a. The coming destruction of the Temple as a sign of Judgment, and
    - b. The signs of His coming again in glory.
  2. False doctrine and false Christ's (or false saviors) are characteristic of the Last Days (We have been in the Last days since the time of the Apostles)
  3. What is tribulation? Every way in which faith in Christ has been attacked down through the centuries. These attacks involve the “shaking” of those things in creation that otherwise seem stable and constant (e.g., the sun, the moon, the stars, the powers of the heavens).
  4. Devil, world, and our sinful nature cause us to interpret the signs of the end times (famine, pestilence, earthquakes, hurricanes, war, the rise of evil, etc.) as reason to fear and turn away from faith in Christ.
  5. The Son of Man comes in the clouds in the midst of such tribulation.
  6. **The Events of Holy Week and the Disciples reactions to that tribulation catechize us and prepare the Church of every age to face the end times.**
  7. His angels (“messengers”) will gather together the elect (believers who have heard the call of the Gospel) from the four winds (all over the world).
  8. **The Parable of the Fig Tree** is a parable that teaches us that the signs of the great Tribulation are actually the prelude to the Second Coming and the Resurrection.
  9. No one knows the hour of our Lord's Second Coming
  10. **“Watch and Pray”** means that the Christian and the Church are called to be evermore “in the study of God's Word”
  11. Christ gives His servants authority to protect the house—each minister is to do his duty, each Christian is to live faithfully in his or her vocation.

**IV. Second Article on the Second Coming and Judgment:**

*From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

+ Second Coming & Judgment

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ ... is my Lord ...

+ The main clause

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom  
and serve Him

+ Believers are  
declared righteous

in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,  
just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

for Jesus' sake  
in the Judgment

This is most certainly true.

on the Last Day

**V. Holy Absolution Proclaims the Judgment of God**

If we faithfully hear, receive, and believe the judgment of God in Christ in this life, then we have nothing to fear at our Lord's Second Coming in Judgement. This makes Catechesis, Preaching, Confession and Absolution the indispensable preparation for Our Lord's Second Coming because they create and sustain faith in Christ AND declare us "righteous for Jesus' sake" – This is the same judgment that will be declared publicly on Judgment Day.

**God's Judgment Can Be Seen in a Threefold Sense:**

- i. In Jesus' death and resurrection.
- ii. In preaching Law and Gospel (repentance and the forgiveness of sins), or Excommunication and Holy Absolution; and
- iii. In the publishing of this verdict publicly and for all eternity on the Last Day.

**VI. Hymn: 468 "I Am Content"**

**VII. Liturgy for Holy Communion (Peach handout)**

**VIII. Hymn to Depart: 508 "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" (Stanzas 5-7)**

## The Second Coming and Judgment—Mark 13:1-37

Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings *are here!*"

<sup>2</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not *one* stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

### The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age

<sup>3</sup> Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him privately, <sup>4</sup> "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"

<sup>5</sup> And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am *He*,' and will deceive many. <sup>7</sup> But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end *is* not yet. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines <sup>[a]</sup>and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of <sup>[b]</sup>sorrows.

<sup>9</sup> "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will <sup>[c]</sup>be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. <sup>11</sup> But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, <sup>[d]</sup>or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup> Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>13</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who <sup>[e]</sup>endures to the end shall be saved.

### The Great Tribulation

<sup>14</sup> "So when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' <sup>[f]</sup>spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>15</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. <sup>16</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>17</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>18</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter. <sup>19</sup> For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

<sup>20</sup> And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

<sup>21</sup> "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, *He* is there!' do not believe it. <sup>22</sup> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the <sup>Ⓜ</sup>elect. <sup>23</sup> But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.

## **The Coming of the Son of Man**

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

## **The Parable of the Fig Tree**

<sup>28</sup> "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. <sup>29</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, know that <sup>Ⓜ</sup>it is near—at the doors! <sup>30</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

## **No One Knows the Day or Hour**

<sup>32</sup> "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. <sup>34</sup> *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. <sup>35</sup> 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—<sup>36</sup> lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"