



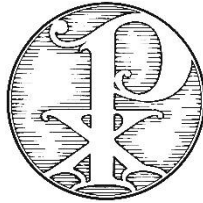
# ABOUT THE PROPER

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2024



*Live Like You'll Live Forever*

Live Free from the Fear of Judgment

The readings for this Sunday contrast the attitudes of believers and unbelievers. The attitude of the unbeliever to any talk of judgment by God can only be denial or terror. But the attitude of the child of God is formed by the Word of God. As that Word has created his faith during his life on earth, so it molds his confidence in the face of death and judgment. But the Word of God and the faith it creates will be seen as fully vindicated by death and judgment. Therefore we look forward to the day on which we pass into the courtroom of God to hear the “Not guilty!” verdict which brought us to faith in the first place. There is no better preparation for death and judgment than a firm clinging to that gracious verdict. There is no better life than the one that has that verdict as its center and the motivation for everything in it. This week we see why his judgment need not trigger any sort of anxiety. Judgment Day is something we can joyfully anticipate. We can live free from the fear of judgment.

### **First Reading**<sup>2</sup>

Daniel 12:1-3

The prophet Daniel foretells that the world will get worse and then judgment day will come. All whose names are written by Christ in his book of life need not fear that judgment. The God who protected his elect in this life will certainly not abandon them in death and in the Day of Judgment. Those who lived in such lowliness, following in the footsteps of their Savior in his humiliation, will rise in triumph and live with him forever in glory. The fate of the damned, who do not know or who despise his gracious Word, impels us to labor with all our might to bring them to the righteousness of the gospel. What a glorious special reward of grace awaits all those who labor thus!

### **Second Reading**<sup>2</sup>

Hebrews 9:24-28

The key to our certainty of heaven is in the hands of our Great High Priest. How do we know that death and judgment will be blessed and happy for us? We know that with certainty because it was for our blessedness that Christ came in the first place; it was for our eternal happiness that he has entered into his glory effectively to intercede for us with his blood. He came to win heaven for us, and he succeeded on his mission. How do we know for sure? His Word says so, and God does not lie! He never failed in life; he will not fail us in death; he will prove faithful on the Day of Judgment.

### **Gospel**<sup>2</sup>

John 5:19-24

Jesus assures us that there is a happy harmony between himself and his Father in everything. Therefore we need not fear that what he has said might be contradicted by his Father. Quite the contrary: the Father loves his incarnate Son so much that everything has already been handed over to him. What a delight and a joy now, in the hour of our death, and on the Day of Judgment to hear his Word! By his Word we are assured of everlasting life. Therefore worship the Son who has won that life for us. What else is there really worth doing? May all of our life be an act of honor to the Son of God, our Judge, our Life, our Savior, our All!

### **Psalm of the Day**<sup>4</sup>

Psalm 16 B

“This Is the Day”

The Church sings Psalm 16 in services that celebrate the resurrection of the dead. Peter (Acts 2:25-32) and Paul (Acts 13:35) both quote the psalm as a reference to Jesus. Martin Luther said, “The sixteenth psalm is a prophecy of the suffering and resurrection of Christ. It clearly shows that he would cast off the old law with its sacrifices as idolatry, and has chosen believers for a beautiful inheritance.”

## Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.”

## Prayer of the Day

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

486 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” (Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608)

## Church Year Season<sup>1</sup>

Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

## Colors & Symbolism

Green

Green is the color of life, refreshment, growth, and regeneration. Whereas the first half of the Church Year (the “Festival Half” or the “Half Year of Our Lord”) focused on the life of Christ during his earthly ministry, the emphasis for the second half (the “Non-Festival half” or the “Half Year of the Church”) shifts to the result of Christ’s work through the Word: the work of defining and creating faith, and inspiring its fruits. The theme of the Christian’s growth in faith (like healthy green plants) fills the season.

## Nain Paraments

Sundays after Pentecost

**Superfrontal:** When Isaiah was called to be a prophet of the LORD, two seraphs (a class of angels) appeared and called out to one another, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Isaiah 6:3). The threefold repetition of the divine adjective emphasizes the infinite holiness of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some congregations count the Sundays in this season of the Church Year as the Sundays after the festival of the Holy Trinity, calling it the “Trinity season,” or the “Sundays after Trinity.” That is why most paraments for this season feature symbols of the Holy Trinity.

**Lectern antependium:** The equilateral triangle is one of the oldest emblems of the Holy Trinity. The three equal sides and angles represent the equality, unity, and co-eternal nature of the three persons of the Trinity. Though they are three distinct persons, they are of one essence as one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The three interwoven circles represent the three members of the Trinity and emphasize their unity and eternal nature; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are without beginning or end.

**Pulpit antependium:** At each point of the triangle (the significance of the triangle is explained above) is a nimbus, Latin for *cloud*. The nimbus appears as a circle, or a halo. In Christian artwork, nimbi surround the head of the Father (when he is depicted as a human), Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit (when he is depicted as a dove) to signify their glory and holiness. In artistic depictions of believers (saints), nimbi are placed around their heads to show that they have been made holy by God’s grace in Christ and through faith. The three fish in between the nimbi and that meet in the middle of the triangle signify Christians who are united to the Triune God by faith. Fish have come to represent the followers of Jesus because believers have been brought into the ship of God’s church through the efforts of those who proclaim Gospel (cf. “fishers of men” in Matthew 4:19).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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