



[Pastor Keith GeRue](#)

Sermon for Advent 1 Midweek
December 3, 2025

Do You Know What Time It Is?

Isaiah 2:1-5

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What time is it? Oh! I gotta go! *Who among us hasn't said that?* It's important to know what time it is. To get to school on time, to your doctor's appointment on time, *to get to church* on time! If you lose track of time, or ignore the time, the consequences could be mild - you just miss something you wanted to see. Or they could be severe - you could get fired.

But it's not just the time of day. The time of year is important, too. Stores know this. You don't stock up on Turkeys in April, and you don't sell swimsuits in January. You don't plant your garden in November, and snow shovels in July aren't going to sell. Don't forget to spring forward and fall back one hour, and don't get those mixed up!

The Scriptures know how important time is. When God created the sun and moon and stars, they weren't only for light, but, God said, *let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years.*¹ There is also a famous passage in Ecclesiastes which says *there is a time for everything.*²

So last Sunday we began a new church year, which helps us keep track of time - but not our time, earthly time, but God's time, heavenly time. That's why the church uses a different calendar than the world, why the church has different seasons than the world. We look at things differently. Mother's Day and Father's Day are important, but Christmas and Easter more. Good Friday shows us love infinitely greater than any Valentines Day. And more important than the seasons that are based on the earth revolving around the sun (named Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) are the seasons that revolve around the Son of God (named Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost). They focus us on God's time. And the one who is, the *creator* of time.

We heard about time in the Scriptures read today. Isaiah mentioned ***the latter days***. St. Paul said ***you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep***. And

¹ Genesis 1:14

² Ecclesiastes 3



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Jesus certainly knew what time it was when He entered Jerusalem, riding on a donkey to the shouts of **Hosanna!** It was time to save those people. It was time to go the cross.

This was the time Jesus had been preparing for - not just His whole life, but for all of time! The Scriptures tell us that God planned for this *even before He created us*. He knew there would be sin, He knew we would need saving and a Savior, and He planned for it. Then He promised that Savior to Adam and Eve after they did what He knew they would. And then, St. Paul says in Galatians, at just the right time - *God sent forth his Son.*³ And now, Jesus knew as He rode into Jerusalem that time, an eternity of waiting had come down to this, that an eternity *of sin* would be held against Him on the cross, and He would be crushed for it. He would be crushed, so we would not. He would bear the weight, so we could be forgiven. He would die, and then rise from the dead, so that we who die, could also rise to life again. To give us confidence when facing death. To give us hope when we see others die. The *time* had come.

So, if there was a clock in heaven, the first alarm would have indicated the time for Jesus to come in the flesh. And He did. There is no snooze button in heaven. For, the psalmist tells us that God *neither slumbers nor sleeps.*⁴ Once Jesus came and did His work, that alarm was reset, to another time in the future, for Jesus to come again in glory. God knows when that time is - we do not. But as surely as the time came for Jesus to come in the flesh, so too will the time come for Him to come in glory.

Those are ***the latter days***, when, as Isaiah said, God's kingdom will be established above all others. There will be peace and no more war, so ***beat [your] swords into plowshares***, and your ***spears into pruning hooks***. And, Isaiah says, ***come, let us walk in the light of the Lord***. Which, on that day, that Last Day, means that we walk in the light that ***IS*** the Lord. That's what the book of Revelation tells us, that when the day of eternity dawns, *we will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be [our] light.*⁵ The glory of God will light our way.⁶ That's hard to imagine, not needing the sun anymore. But no more war, only peace; no more sin, only love . . . I'll take that.

But it's not that time yet. That second alarm hasn't gone off yet. There is still sin, war, troubles. Struggles, heartache, problems. Disease, death, sadness. Now, the light of the Lord we walk by is **His Word**. The psalmist told us that, too: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*⁷ The Word of God directs us and leads us, but also gives us

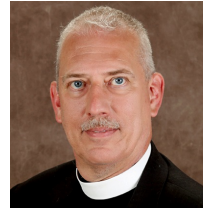
³ Galatians 4:4

⁴ Psalm 121:4

⁵ Revelation 22:5

⁶ Revelation 21:23

⁷ Psalm 119:105



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what we need. The Word directs us to the cross to find our life there. The Word directs us to water to find and receive our new life there. The Word directs us to the altar to find and receive our heavenly food, the Body and Blood of Jesus, there. The Word directs us to the Gospel to find and receive our forgiveness there. Just as the world has its own calendar to mark time, but we have a different one, so too the world has its own words that direct and lead them. *The question is: where are they going? Where are they being led? And do we really want to follow them? Do we really want to go where those words are leading? Or maybe there's a better word, a better way . . .*

Which brings us to the words we heard today from St. Paul: ***you know the time***, he says; ***that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep***. Now is not the time to hit the snooze button as Christians! To put off what we should be doing now. To think that second heavenly alarm is still a long way from going off. It might not be. ***Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed***, Paul adds. And it grows closer with each passing day. ***The night is far gone; the day is at hand***. Or, put it this way: the Son has been up, risen from the dead, for a long time. So, it's time for us to get ready - do those things we do when the sun comes up. It's time for us to get up and wash - to remember when you were washed in baptism and now receive the ongoing washing of absolution. It's time for us to get dressed - in the robe of Christ's righteousness. It's time for us to eat - the Body and Blood of Jesus that gives us strength and life. For, Paul said, ***you know the time***.

Jesus knew it was time to get on His donkey. To fight a different kind of battle. One that would be won in the strength of weakness, in the power of humility, and in the victory of death. Strength, power and victory the people wanted! Weakness, humility, and death . . . not so much. But with Jesus, *it's always both*. Even when things seem like opposites, they aren't with Jesus. Jesus always gives you more. And that more is for your good. Your eternal good. Jesus fulfilled those shouts of ***hosanna!*** just not as the people expected. Yours too. When you cry out for help, for God to save. So that when that second heavenly alarm goes off, and Jesus comes in glory, you'll be awake and ready to sing, ***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!***

So, practice that in this life. Sing those same words as Jesus comes to you, humbly, riding in the bread and wine. So, rejoice now in the forgiveness of sins. And rejoice when the bread and wine go away and we finally see Jesus as He is. Rejoice because ***our King is coming to us, righteous and having salvation***. Our salvation. That Day we'll finally be "off the clock," and living in peace, joy, and rest, forever. *How good does that sound?*

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.