

The Hymn of the Day for the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost is “The Day is Surely Drawing Near” (LSB 508)

This hymn describes the Last Day. Judgment Day is something that should strike fear in the hearts of those who have neglected or rejected God’s invitation of grace. On the other hand, it is anticipated with great joy by those who trust in the promise of being saved by grace.

In stanza 1, that *fright shall banish idle mirth* gives the reason for *powers of the heavens will be shaken* (Luke 21:26). No one can be ignorant of what is happening when the Lord returns

Stanza 2 begins with the sounding of *the final trumpet*. The sound accompanies the Lord’s return. This is the resurrection of those who have died and the instant change of those who are still alive.

*The books* in stanza 3 refer to the record of human activity. In Matt. 25:34–46 speaks about what those on the right did in their life time and what those on the left did not do. This separation took place before the merits are mentioned. It was based on saving faith and not on works.

Stanza 4 is a crushing description of the biblical truth for those who *scorned* the Lord and *despised His precious Word*, preferring *carnal pleasures and earthly treasures*.

Stanza 5 describes the confidence of faith believers have in the gift of Christ’s death and resurrection. For us as Christians there is no more condemnation possible (Rom. 8:1–2) Since Baptism, our names have been recorded in the *Lamb’s Book of Life*.

In stanza 6 the confident faith turns to prayer. It trusts in Jesus’ promise to intercede for us before the Father’s throne. We are saved by the perfect life, death and resurrection of Christ.

Finally, stanza 7 is a prayer for Jesus’ return and our endurance.

Prayer: O Lord, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Collect for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost) (LCMS Worship Resources)