



# Small Group Study Guide for November 24, 2024

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Jesus' return is a sure and certain expectation for the Christian. It is a promise of hope and joy for believers. We look forward to the ultimate Easter, the new heavens and the new earth, when God will make all things new!

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. How do you plan to celebrate Thanksgiving?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are you thankful for this year?

## **In the Word: Read Mark 13:24-37**

3. Matthew, Mark, and Luke record Jesus' teaching about the End Times. This passage is in the final section of Jesus' teaching during Holy Week, just before He and His disciples celebrated the Passover. **Verse 26-27** is a clear promise of Jesus' visible return. The lesson of the fig tree in **vs 28-29** says that when you see things happening, you know the time is near. What things do you see happening in our world today that might tell us Jesus' return is drawing near?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. **"No one knows about that day or hour...." Vs 32.** There is no use trying to predict the End of the World, or predict when Jesus will return. Why do you think that hasn't stopped people from trying over the years?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Unpack the mini parable in **verses 34-35**. Who is the master of the house, who are the servants, what are they assigned to do, and who is the one assigned at the door?

6. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**. What are the similarities between this passage and the passage from Mark 13?

**Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

7. What similarities might there be between our Thanksgiving celebrations and the return of Jesus? See if you can find any points of comparison.
8. Next week we will be in Advent, the season that celebrates Jesus' first coming 2,000 years ago. How will Jesus' second Advent (second coming) be different than His first Advent?
9. If you knew that Jesus was coming back tomorrow, how would you spend the next 24 hours?
10. The servants in charge of the house are assigned tasks until the master returns. What has Jesus put you in charge of, and what are your assigned tasks until his return?

**Prayer:** Ask that God the Father would help us serve each other in love until Jesus returns, and that we would share the Gospel with as many people as we can until then. Ask Jesus to come quickly, and make all things new. Ask the Holy Spirit to bless our witness, and help our church to learn, live, and share Christ.

**Next Week:** Advent begins December 1 with the First Sunday of Advent. Our sermon series will look at Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus. Do you have an Advent Wreath? Advent devotions, written by OSL members, are available in the lobby and will be shared via email also.

**Note:** Advent Hymn Sing is Wednesday, December 6, 7 p.m. There are some amazing Advent hymns! Take special note of those which make reference to Jesus' second Advent. Check our website and e-news for the other great events happening during Advent.