

Made You Look!

Matthew 24:27 *Jesus said, "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."*

There's a spider on your shoulder. Made you look! There's an elephant in the parking lot. Made you look! This could go on for days. It's a favorite game of most children, at least most of the kids I've known. Children get some strange pleasure from tricking people into looking for something that isn't there, especially if it scares them a little, like the spider thing. But we parents know better, don't we? We play along even when they tell us that a giant monkey with a pig on its back is in the front yard. Made you look!

Matthew records Jesus' response to questions about the end of time. People were already concerned about when He would return, even though he hadn't left for the first time. What is the end of time going to be like? It's going to be a mess because people will try and make you look. In verse 23, Jesus says, "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it." Don't fall for the ol' "made you look" routine.

There are plenty of people out there today claiming to be Jesus. There have been throughout history and there will continue to be. I'll follow Jesus' advice. I'm not falling for it. But Pastor Joe, what if he does show up and you don't believe him? Here again, I'll follow Jesus' words. "For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." In other words, you won't be able to miss it. When he comes, I'm assuming, based on his words that I'll know it.

Verses 13-14 "But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." How will we know when the end will come? When the gospel is proclaimed to every nation. How will we know when this is done? Jesus will come back. Have you seen him yet? Then keep proclaiming his Gospel and spreading the word.

Don't fall for all of the scams, tricks, false teachers and other gospels. Each one will say, "Look, here's Jesus!" Don't buy it. Jesus finds us where he promises to find us - in his body and blood, in his word, in the waters of baptism. Jesus has not come back. The end is near, but not yet here. Until then, "for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26, also in the Divine Service, setting one LSB.

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into the world and many did not believe him. Yet he did not draw attention to himself for his own glory, but for yours. Keep us strong in our faith so that we don't fall for the tricks of those who would "make us look!" Help us to be bold to proclaim the Gospel until you send Jesus back to bring the age to a close. In Jesus' name, Amen.