

Coming Celebration

Introduction for the Participants

This liturgy celebrates the future return of Jesus Christ, drawing inspiration from the Jewish Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah). It highlights the fact that on the day Jesus returns, God will gather his people together and all will be put to right. The use of the trumpet in this liturgy connects back to the functions of the silver trumpet and ram's horn trumpet in the Old Testament – to call the Israelites together for worship or celebration and to alert the people or let them know God was on the move.

It incorporates the Year of Jubilee or the “the acceptable year of the Lord” as it is referred to in both Isaiah and Luke and the way this points toward Jesus’ return on the Day of the Lord. For those who have chosen not to follow God, this day is a foreboding thing, a day of impending judgement. But for the redeemed, looking forward to the Day of the Lord is a celebration of hope.

It also uses Jesus’ words in Luke 4 as a reminder that this celebration is not just a future hope. Though we have not experienced its ultimate effects, the Bible tells us that the Kingdom of God is already at hand. Jesus is already king, and he has given us the authority and the duty to propagate his kingdom, both in word and in deed. We do not know when the trumpet will sound and the King will return, but as his followers, we are called to prepare for his return by joining in his mission.