

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Steadfast and Faithful

November 12 & 13, 2022

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

In today's Readings, we hear warnings about the coming day of the Lord. Such warnings can fill us with fear and questions. But we are also encouraged by God's faithfulness and steadfastness. He protects us from the assaults of Satan. He establishes us and keeps us. He directs our hearts toward love. "May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ" (2 Thessalonians 3:5). God grant us such hearts!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:4-5

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✖ PREPARATION ✖

OPENING HYMN #738

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,

Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord is faithful.

People: He establishes us and guards us against Satan.

Pastor: The Lord is steadfast.

People: He directs our hearts to love our neighbors.

Pastor: We can be confident in the Lord and His love for us.

People: May He grant us quiet lives free from trouble.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In our lives, we struggle to follow Jesus' example of love, steadfastness, and faith. We have sown hatred, shown laziness, and known many doubts. We have not kept our eyes fixed on Jesus. Yet our heavenly Father invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence and ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have sinned against you in thoughts, words, and actions. Help us to serve in joy and love. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us back to you, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven by the steadfast love of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, you have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in you. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✖ WORD ✕

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Malachi 4:1–6* (The day of the Lord is coming.)

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out

leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. ⁴ "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Thessalonians 3:1–13* (Paul warns against idleness.)

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,² and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command.⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.⁶ Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:5–36* (Jesus prophesies the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷ And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them.⁹ And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake.¹³ This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴ Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer,¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers¹⁶ and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish.¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives. ²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it,²² for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³ Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴ They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and

cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“This Little Gospel Light of Mine”

This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine; (x3)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm going to let it shine (x3)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

It will point the way to heaven, I'm going to let it shine (x3)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

SERMON HYMN #735 “Have No Fear, Little Flock”

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

SERMON

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our fellowship folder located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . one God, now and forever.

People: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✖ SACRAMENT ✎

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #685 "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

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Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with you I die, There to live with you on high.

Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head.
We are your own living members; Where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, Living there with you forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

HYMN #490 "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won"

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

HYMN #629

"What Is This Bread"

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break, This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace Brings His embrace Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?
My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul He makes us whole Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.
O taste and see the Lord is good.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #861**“Christ Be My Leader”**

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation; with Jesus I reign.

Next weekend's scripture readings:

Malachi 3:13-18

Colossians 1:13-20

Luke 23:27-43

Preacher

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

Russell Hurst, Bob Reynolds

Organist

Jo Bender

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