

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Signs of the Times
November 16 & 17, 2019
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

During Holy Week, Jesus announced that the temple would be destroyed, and that started a discussion about calamities in history and the Last Day. All that Jesus said would happen is already part of history: wars, earthquakes, famines, floods, and astronomical events. The signs of the times tell us the Last Day is near. For some people, it will be a time of judgment, but for followers of our Lord, His return will be a sign that our "redemption is drawing near." Malachi says in joy they "shall go out leaping like calves from the stall." And the psalm calls on all creation to rejoice. Even the rivers should "clap their hands!" Before that Last Day, Paul urges, we ought to rely on the Lord's faithfulness, get to work, and try not to be a burden to anyone. Today is already a day to "sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things" (Psalm 98:1).

WELCOME

"[The last] day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire,
and the elements will melt in the heat.

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward
to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."
(2 Peter 3:12b-13, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #534 "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"

Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendor, First begotten from the dead,
You alone, our strong defender, Lifting up Your people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus, true and living bread! Jesus, true and living bread!

Though the lowliest form now veil You As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there Your angels hail You, Branch and flow'r of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

We in worship join with them; We in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, Your off'ring, finished Once for all when You were slain,
In its fullness undiminished Shall forevermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain; Cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.

Life imparting heav'nly manna, Stricken rock with streaming side,
Heav'n and earth with loud hosanna Worship You, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Ris'n, ascended, glorified! Ris'n, ascended, glorified!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: When many say, "The time is at hand,"

People: do not go after them.

Pastor: When you hear of wars and tumults,

People: do not be terrified.

Pastor: When you are brought before kings and governors for My name's sake,

People: I will give you a mouth and wisdom.

Pastor: When these things begin to take place,

People: straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Looking toward Christ's return in judgment and the gracious gift of His own righteousness, let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. We are bound to sin without your forgiveness and help. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will this day and walk in your ways until the dawning of the day of your return. Amen.

Pastor: Before we were born, almighty God gave His Son to die for you; He is the “sun of righteousness.” Because of your Baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ, each day He declares you righteous for Jesus’ sake. When our Lord returns, we “shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE #868 “Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun” Stanzas 1-3 & 6

Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;

Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.

In conversation be sincere, Thy conscience as the noon day clear;

Think how the all seeing God thy ways And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast refreshed me while I slept;

Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, your Son promised to return to judge the world.

People: By your Holy Spirit keep us strong in faith that we straighten up as our redemption draws near and welcome the joyful new day as it dawns;

Pastor: through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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* (Malachi foretells the Day of the Lord and Elijah’s 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. 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. 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. “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 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 urges keeping busy each day and not being burdensome.) Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. 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. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 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. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM

“Adoration” (4-5)

8:00 BELL ANTHEM

“Rejoice and Be Glad”

As you listen to this bell selection consider Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” This piece, written by Dr. John A

Behnke, is written to help us consider the awesome promises of God amidst our struggles. The first and last sections of the piece encourage us to consider the tensions of this life and our daily struggles and see the Lord in the midst of them. The middle lyrical section of the piece reminds us of the joys yet to come and how our God keeps His promises to us. We hope this selection encourages you today.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 21:5–36* (Jesus foretells both the destruction of Jerusalem and the events of the Last Day.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, “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.” And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” 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. 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.” Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. 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. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. 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, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. 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. 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. “And there will be signs in sun and moon and

5 continued

, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “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. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 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 MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, O Faithful Flock”

Lift up your heads, O faithful flock. Behold, our Savior shall return.
Then shall a new day end the night, Then may we gloom and evil spurn.
The sun of righteousness shall rise, With healing in His wings, a sign:
The new day dawns with joy. New songs shall we employ.

Like fire His coming shall destroy All those who live in hate and sin.
Eternal peace and heav’nly joy Our Savior then shall usher in.
Like calves giv’n freedom from their pen We’ll jump for joy and sing again:
Praise Father, Spirit, Son! The new day has begun!

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SERMON

“Signs of Salvation Drawing Near”

Luke 21:5-36

(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)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** 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 book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Holy God, mighty Lord, hear your people as they pray, and grant to them all things needful and beneficial according to your gracious promise in Christ, our Lord.

Brief silence

Pastor: Praise to you, O Lord, for you have done marvelous things and laid bare your arm to save your people. Deliver your Church from all her enemies and from those who battle against your Word.

People: Sustain us through the fears and trials of these latter days, and grant us faithful hearts that look to the signs all around us that Christ shall surely return in glory.

Pastor: Father in heaven, raise up faithful pastors who will secure your people in faith through the ministry of your Word and Sacraments. Bless those preparing for full-time church work and considering church-work vocations.

People: Bless our Groundwork Guatemala team as they prepare for their mission trip and bless our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer.

Pastor: Glory to you, O Lord, for you have remembered your steadfast love to your people and redeemed them through the blood of your only Son. Strengthen your people in their baptismal identity as your children and in their vocation of worship, witness, love and mercy work.

People: Bless our congregation to grow in giving and serving and call more of your people to gather here by your Word and Spirit.

Pastor: Gracious are you, O Lord, and we thank you for your blessing the ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran School. Thank you for all who serve in various ways among us.

People: Bless our upcoming basketball tournament to be a time of good competition, good food, and good fellowship.

Pastor: Holy are you, O Lord, and you are almighty. You will judge the world with righteousness and your people with equity. Bless us with good and faithful leaders and government to serve your purposes, defend your people, punish the evildoer and encourage virtue.

People: Make us especially mindful of those least able to defend themselves, especially the unborn. Raise up those who will serve the cause of peace among the nations.

Pastor: Faithful God, you have given us rich and abundant promises and promised to be with us in all adversity and need. Be with those who cry to you in any need of body, mind or soul, and grant them grace sufficient for all their needs especially John, Arlene, Jean, Jerry, Nancy, Robert, Jonathan, Judi, Steve, Sharon, Bette, Nathan, Shirley, Mary, Cindy, Bill, Katie, Dolores, Russ, Herb, Sarah, Marge, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Deliver them from illness according to your will, and grant them to rest upon the firm foundation of your grace and favor to keep them through the days of their trial.

Pastor: We worship you, O Lord, for all your loving kindness shown to us in Christ, our Savior. Deliver us from fear as we witness the signs of the times and see so many things that cause us concern.

People: Remind us that though the nations rage and dark powers press against the Church, this is our opportunity to give witness to the Word that does not change and our hope in Christ.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the gift of family, and we pray you to bless the homes in which your people dwell. Bless Jean as she remembers the wedding anniversaries of loved ones.

People: Make our homes places of blessing and peace where your Word is shared and the faith is preserved and passed on to children and grandchildren.

Pastor: Holy Lord, you are the strength of your people. Grant us strength, that we may not give into temptation or be caught up in evil, but endure to the day of Christ's return.

People: When Christ returns, we pray that we would be found holy and blameless by His grace and be led to the place where there is no night, no darkness and no death.

Pastor: Welcoming Lord, bring us to receive with thanksgiving and faith the blessed food of Christ's flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sins.

People: Bless us with unity of faith and harmony of life. Grant us the gifts of the Spirit and to bear the fruit of faith in our daily life.

Pastor: O blessed Lord, you have promised never to abandon us and always to provide all that we need for this day and for eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ, hear the prayers of your people, and grant them all good things for your mercy's sake. To you, the eternal God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be glory now and forevermore.

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

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

HYMN #346 "When All the World Was Cursed" Stanzas 1 & 3

When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he names,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #808 "O Sing to the Lord"

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.

O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

For God is the Lord! And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord! And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord! And God has done wonders.
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

So dance for our God And blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God And blow all the trumpets.
So dance for our God, And blow all the trumpets.
And sing to our God, And sing to our God.

O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spirit.
O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spirit.
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

HYMN #873 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise; Triumph o’er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day’s return Till Thy mercy’s beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood.

People: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end;

Pastor: 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 has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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. Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #813 “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

Rejoice, O pilgrim Throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong As ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng.

Refrain

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Noah Kegley
Debbie Ulbing, Laurel Privatt
Keira Hutchins, Ashton Poritz
Michelle Prince