

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020
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INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT: PSALM 143:1-2, 5-6, 10-11 (ESV)

- ¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
- ² ***Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.***
- ⁵ I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
- ⁶ ***I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.***
- ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!
- ¹¹ ***For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!***

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray that You will open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.

Amen.

#157: "REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING!"

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
And triumph ever more:

Refrain:

- Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 2 The Lord, our Savior, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains,
He took His seat above:
- 3 His kingdom can not fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
- 4 Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord the judge shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home:

CONFESSION OF SIN

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) And so with confidence we bow before the Lord to confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!

O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives power to become sons of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, LORD, to us all.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ZEPHANIAH 1:7-16 (ESV)

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

⁸ And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—

“I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

⁹ On that day I will punish

everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.

¹⁰ “On that day,” declares the LORD,

“a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹ Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!

For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,

and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
‘The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.’

¹³ Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.”

¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.

¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 25:14-30 (ESV)

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to

be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall 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.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Larsons

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING RESPONSE

*We give Thee but Thine own, whate’er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee. Amen.*

#158: “THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR”

- 1 The day is surely drawing near,
When He, the Lord’s Anointed,
Will with great majesty appear,
As Judge of all appointed.
No more the gospel call is heard
To turn from sin and heed God’s word:
The day of grace is ended.
- 2 Then woe to those who scorn’d the Lord,
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious word,
And loved their earthly treasures,
With shame and trembling they shall stand,
And at the Judge’s stern command
Depart from Him forever.
- 3 O Christ, my Intercessor be,
And for Thy death and merit
Declare my name from judgment free,
With all who life inherit;
That with my brethren I may stand
With Thee in heav’n, our fatherland,
Which Thou for us hast purchased.
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ, do not delay,
O hasten our salvation!
We often tremble on our way,
In fear and tribulation.
Then hear us when we cry to Thee:
Come, mighty Judge, come, make us free
From ev’ry evil. Amen!

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness,

brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

SERMON: "THE GOOD THIEF"

#456: "STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS"

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
As soldiers of the cross,
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry
His army He shall lead,
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished
And Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger,
And strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
You dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor;
Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
Their crown of life shall see,
And with the King of glory
Shall reign eternally.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION (NUMBERS 6:24-26)

The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

Amen. Amen. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*