TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Signs of the Times

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).
GATHERING SONG

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

CHORUS: Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed
I’m a child of God Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

CHORUS

In my Father’s house
There’s a place for me
I’m a child of God
Yes I am

I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am

I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am

CHORUS

In my Father’s house
There’s a place for me
I’m a child of God
Yes I am

※ PREPARATION ※

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG MIGHTY TO SAVE

Everyone needs compassion, Love that's never failing.
Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Savior. The hope of nations

CHORUS: Savior, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as You find me, All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again. I give my life to follow,
Everything I believe in. Now I surrender. CHORUS

Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, Shine your light, And let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King. CHORUS
INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES Based on Luke 21

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 AND ABSOLUTION Malachi 4:2

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.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 4:1–6
(Malachi foretells the Day of the Lord and Elijah’s coming.)

"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who
revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty. "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

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.)

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

(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.

Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another;
every one of them will be thrown down." "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, `I am he,' and, `The time is near.' Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven." But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. This will result in your being witnesses to them. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life. "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
Jenna Lawrenz

SONG OF THE DAY “Come Thou Font” LSB 686

SERMON “Only One Future” Pastor John Larson

APOSTLES’ CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING BETTER IS ONE DAY

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

CHORUS: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,
Than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
to find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
to find You in the place Your glory dwells. CHORUS

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted, and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You, to You. CHORUS
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Lois Hodne (Adult Confirmation)
Vernon Kahler (Adult Confirmation)
Gloe Ann Leino (Adult Confirmation)
Robert and Linda Olsen (Transfer)

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord. [Colossians 3:1]
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise. [Psalm 136]


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER  Matthew 6:9–13 Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

REVELATION SONG  Riddle

Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain; Holy, holy is He; Sing a new song to Him Who sits on heaven’s mercy seat.

CHORUS: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
 Who was and is and is to come;
 With all creation I sing praise to the King of kings;
 You are my ev’rything and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows of living color flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder;
Blessing and honor, strength and glory
And power be to You, the only wise King. CHORUS

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder, At the mention of Your name;
Jesus, Your name is power, breath and living water,
Such a marvelous mystery, yeah. CHORUS
OCEANS

You call me out upon the waters,
The great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery,
In oceans deep, my faith will stand.

CHORUS: And I will call upon Your name
       And keep my eyes above the waves.
       When oceans rise,
       My soul will rest in Your embrace
       For I am Yours and You are mine.

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now. CHORUS

Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger In the presence of my Savior. CHORUS

EVERLASTING GOD

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord We will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer

CHORUS: You are the everlasting God The everlasting God
You do not faint You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you
in His grace.
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!

CLOSING SONG THE LION AND THE LAMB Brown/Johnson/Mooring

He’s coming on the clouds,  
Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
And every chain will break,  
As broken hearts declare His praise  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

CHORUS: Our God is the Lion,  
The Lion of Judah  
He’s roaring with power and fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before You  
Our God is the Lamb,  
The Lamb that was slain  
For the sin of the world,  
His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before  
The Lion and the Lamb  
Oh every knee will bow before  
The Lion and the Lamb

So open up the gates,  
Make way before the King of kings  
Our God who calls the saved  
Is here to set the captives free  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty? CHORUS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT: Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT: Gwen Geisler
YOUTH BAND: Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
8:00: Roger Gaide
10:30: Norm Finfrock

LECTOR
8:00: Mavis Slifka
10:30: Mike Reimnitz

ACOLYTE
8:00: Annaliese Tunheim
10:30: Nevaeh Cooper

USHERS
8:00: Clyde Wiggins, Members of the Congregation
10:30: Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER
10:30: Flo Westra

ALTAR GUILD
Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Gloria Mielke, Laurel Shurtleff

FLOWERS
Ellen Thompson, in loving memory of her husband Ralph.

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