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).
PRELUDE  “Christ is Surely Coming”  Michael Burkhardt

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN  “Christ is Surely Coming”  LSB 509

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.
KYRIE  Luke 21:33; Psalm 121:1–2, 5, 7–8

Pastor: Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE  “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”  LSB 868

(Verses 1, 5-6)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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 Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE Luke 21:28b

Pastor: Alleluia. Straighten up and raise your heads,
People: because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.
(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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348
Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world, all people in their various circumstances, and ourselves as we all await our Lord’s return.

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

Pastor: Lord of the Church, strengthen the resolve and increase the joy of clergy and lay leaders as they bear the news of all the marvelous things You have done. Through their efforts and the blessing of the Holy Spirit, grant that many come to faith and rejoice on Your return.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: In all the nations of the world, heavenly Father, guide those who are in seats of authority. Give them wisdom to rule in compassion and justice and provide for the common good of all their citizens.

People: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of those in ill health, sorrow, or stress, [including . . . ]; bring Your wholeness to them that they return thanks and praise to You.

People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Pastor: Special intercessions may be added here... Lord, in Your mercy,

People: we praise the name of the Lord.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, giver of all good gifts, move musicians and poets, artists and actors to use their talents to praise Your name, confront the ills of society, and inspire those who hear and see them to acts of love and good works.

People: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Pastor: Confident of Your ordering all things, we commend to Your care all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“The Rejoicing”
G.F. Handel
Gloria Dei Ringers

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.
SACRAMENT

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

PROPER PREFACE
Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who suffered, died, and rose for us so that when He returns it will be like the dawning of a new day. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS
“All Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB 507 (verse 4)

ALL: Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise
Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Your Table I Approach”  
“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”  
“Rise My Soul, to Watch and Pray”  

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthens 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!

HYMN

“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”  
(LS8 813)

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”  
Michael Burkhardt
### 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

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<td>Clyde Wiggins, Members of the Congregation</td>
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**FLOWERS**
Ellen Thompson, in loving memory of her husband Ralph.

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