

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THEME: Partnering with God in His mission!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

P: Dear Lord, we pray that you would shine the bright beams of your light into our lives today. Our days are often filled with darkness. In our worship today, send the light of your forgiveness, the light of your Word, and the light of your mercy into our hearts and minds. We want to reflect your light! In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

BEING HONEST TO GOD.....

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE.....

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG "Green Book" 401 (vs. 1-3 only) Before You, Lord, We Bow

Before you, Lord, we bow. Our God who reigns above and
Rules the world below, boundless in power and love. Our thanks we
Bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to you, our King!

The nation you have blest may well your love declare, from
Foes and fears at rest, protected by your care. For this bright
Day, for this fair land – gifts of your hand – our thanks we pay.

May every mountain height, each vale and forest green, shine
In your Word's pure light, and its rich fruits be seen! May every
Tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grateful song.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....Almighty God, we pray that you would govern and direct our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, being mindful of the end of all things and your just judgment, we may be motivated for holy living here and know that we will live with you forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 1:7-16

The prophet proclaims that the day of the Lord is near!

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.

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.

On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

"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.

Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

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.'

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."

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.

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

SECOND LESSON: I Thessalonians 5: 1-11

God has destined us for salvation through Jesus.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 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. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells the parable of the talents

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 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. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

CHOIR ANTHEM

We Will Walk in the Light!

Arranged by Don Besig

SERMON

"Risky Business"

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 381

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the master calls you; Rich reward he offers free.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I. Send me, send me?"

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying "There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying And the master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calls you, "Here am I. Send me, send me?"

APOSTLE'S CREED

C: We believe in God, the creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love.....We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God yet true man. He was crucified, died and was buried for our sin that we might be free and know the joy of life. He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven, and will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.....We believe in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work inside of us.....We believe in the church of God, the people of faith throughout the world.....We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer)

OFFERING

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Red Book" 183 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,
Be the Guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Hear Thy children when they pray;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Hear Thy children when they pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us;
Poor and sinful though we be.
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse and pow'r to free;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

“Red Book” 241 To God be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Almighty God, thank you for the light you have given us today. Now use us to send the light of your truth, grace and mercy into the world. Teach us to trust you as we use our “talents” this week. In Jesus’ name we pray.

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Shine Jesus, Shine

Lord, the Light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirror'd here may our lives tell Your story,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL