

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2016

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER.....In hearing Jesus' alarming words concerning the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world, at first we may wonder why the disciples or any of us would want to join this enterprise. But the issue is more than just the objective truth of a coming day of judgment. It is more personal than that. These words describe the challenge to our faith in Christ—the fear that we might lose it and He might lose us. So, in these closing days of the Church Year, Jesus lifts our eyes to the great hope of His continued grace and promised redemption.

RINGING OF THE BELL

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....

P: Eternal God, as we face the uncertainties and darkness of life in this world, help us also to take great hope in the promise of Your deliverance into the brightness of eternal life with You in the new heavens and earth; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Malachi 4:1-6

The great day of the Lord

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.”

EPISTLE: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Warning against idleness

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 busy-bodies. 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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Luke 21: 5-28

Jesus foretells of persecution

While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings [Jesus] 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 mediate 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 let 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 stars, 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.”

CHOIR ANTHEM

Lay Down Your Trouble

By John Purifoy

SERMON

“Making a Comeback”

SERMON HYMN

Eagle’s Wings

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!”**

**And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear:
Under his wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.**

**And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.**

**You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.**

**And he will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.**

For to his angels he's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

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.

OFFERING

COLLECTING MITES

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and Your love, which sustains us from day to day. Keep us in the saving faith that the Last Day be but the first day of our eternal deliverance. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Save our nation, and grant health and wisdom to all who bear office in our land and throughout the world, that truth and justice prevail and that we may lead peaceable lives. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Deliver us from all fear by filling us with Your perfect love, ordering our days in Your peace. Grant Your blessing to all who work to bring peace safely in our daily lives. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: By Your Word and Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, (especially.....). Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

A TRIBUTE TO OUR PEACE VETERANS

FINAL PRAYER

P: Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces in our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor. Bless our veterans too that their lives would be lived in your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG “Green Book” 566 My Country, ‘Tis of Thee

My country, ‘tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims’ pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom’s song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Our father’s God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom’s holy light,
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our king.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL