
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2019

AS WE GATHER...When God promised to send Elijah before the Day of the Lord, He was talking about John the Baptist and his preparing for Jesus' entry into history, saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God." But there is another day of the Lord to prepare for, the one coming at the end of time. While some people will experience it as stubble being burned up, for those who fear the Lord, it will be like the dawning of a new day. Our Lord will be a sun of righteousness rising with healing in its wings. And we "shall go out leaping like calves from the stall." That's because our new day dawned already when we were baptized and were united to Jesus' death and resurrection. Today we are encouraged in our worship to live with confidence until the day comes when Jesus returns.

RINGING OF THE BELL

We take a few moments *in silence* to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL OPENING: "Be Still"

Arranged by Jennifer Lunday Lewis

Be still. (x4) Be Still. (x4)

Be still, my soul, and know that God is with you.

Breathe peace from God that soothes and makes you whole.

Be still and know that nothing is beyond His hand.

He will provide, sustain your weary soul.

It is well (x2) with my soul. (x2)

When tears of loss and loneliness ensnare you,

Know as a child of God, you're not alone.

When life brings storms of pain and deep despair,

God's voice will calm rough waters: "Peace, be still."

It is well with my soul.

"Be still (x4) and know that I am God."

OPENING BLESSING

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

BEING HONEST ABOUT OURSELVES...

L: We confess our sins. Kind and loving Father,

C: we confess to You our sinfulness both of nature and of choice. We often lose heart in the face of obstacles, difficulties, and suffering. We fail to call upon You for help, and we fail to keep trusting in Your goodness. Hear us now for Jesus' sake. Forgive our sins and lead us onward to live each day in Your presence by the aid of Your Holy Spirit.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN

L: 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 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.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: "You are My All in All"

You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek.

You are my all in all.
Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool,
You are my all in all.

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your Name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your Name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame.
Rising again, I bless Your name.

You are my all in all.
When I fall down, You pick me up.
When I am dry, You fill my cup.
You are my all in all. Chorus

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your Name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your Name.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You.

C: Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son,

L: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The First Lesson:

Malachi 4:1-6

Malachi foretells the Day of the Lord and Elijah's coming.

"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."

*Jesus foretells both the destruction of Jerusalem
and the events of the Last Day.*

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 uprisings, 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 seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. 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 and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win 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. People 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.”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: "Soon and Very Soon"

TOSB 191

Soon and very soon,
We are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon,
We are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon,
We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We are going to see the King.

No more crying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more crying there,
We are going to see the King.
No more crying there,
We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
We are going to see the King.

No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King.
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
We are going to see the King.

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

OFFERINGS

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son offered for our salvation.

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- L:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- L:** Lord of the Church, strengthen the resolve and increase the joy of Your people as they share 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. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- L:** 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. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**

L: 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, accompany all who travel on the sea or land, in air or space; give insight to those who must deal with changing weather; and provide for all who farm, transport, and distribute the bounty of Your good creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 glory forever
and ever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together

TOSB 126

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees;
Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

How Great Thou Art

TOSB 78

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim "My God how great thou art!"

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

Amazing Grace

TOSB 31

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has bought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing
God's praise Than when we first began.

CLOSING BLESSING

L: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG: "Now Thank We All Our God"

TOSB 263

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!