

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Introduction to the Day

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.  
We have ignored voices  
that call for your justice.  
We have neglected actions  
that witness to your righteousness.  
We have spoken and acted  
in ways that disrupt your beloved community.**

**We truly repent of things we have done  
and left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Restore our troubled spirits,  
so that we may live in newness,  
follow the way of the Spirit,  
and build up the body of Christ.  
Amen.**

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,  
and restores us to life through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all  
your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn "Christ, Be Our Light"**

**#715 vs. 1,3,4,5**

### Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings: Malachi 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup>See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup>But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

### 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

<sup>6</sup>Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup>This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup>For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

## Children's Message

### Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup>They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” <sup>8</sup>And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup>“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

### Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Today we strayed from our “normal” and selected two readings preceding the Gospel. Both the Old and New Testament options for today were selected. And while it may seem a little odd, or perhaps went completely unnoticed, it was very intentional.

Why? Because in them we find hope. There is a hopeful word, though fleeting, that we NEED to hear.

As we read our lessons and Gospel for today, there is much despair. There is warning. There is prophecy. And it isn't good. None of it sounds hopeful. And, unfortunately it is far too relatable for many to our current world.

Malachi warns, “the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up...so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”

Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians warns believers to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the way. Paul exhorts the believers to continue to do the work to which they've been called, but to do so quietly. In the face of difficulty, in the face of perversion of the way it ought to be, believers are continually urged to stay on the path doing the work God called them to do.

And, in Luke's gospel, the warnings becoming amplified.

Luke, who again is a gospel full of what Christ brings to the world, restoring sight to blind, setting the captive free, food to the hungry, and the list goes on, really digs into the warning of the end times. Knowing this, the people of that time still clung to the things they worshiped. And Jesus dives right in. Hearing them speaking of their beautiful temple, “these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

Jesus gives them warnings of those who will come and speak in his name, urging them to follow and be led astray, BUT DON'T DO IT!

There is warning of wars and insurrections, nations rising against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms, earthquakes, famines, plagues, dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. Stop me if any of this is stuff we haven't seen! Oh, but BEFORE this happens you will be arrested and handed over to the ruling class to face persecution in Jesus name. Things aren't sounding so good right about now.

BUT!

In each of these texts there is a word of relief, a word of hope. From the prophetic voice of Malachi, "BUT, for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing on its wings."

Paul to the church at Thessalonica echoes a sentiment he's heard Jesus speak, "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

And Jesus in Luke's gospel, upon the notice that followers will be arrested and persecuted, "This will give you an opportunity to testify. Don't plan your defense in advance for I will give you words and a wisdom that no opponent will be able to withstand or contradict. Yes, you will be betrayed by family, relatives, and friends, and some will put you to death. Because of my name, you will be hated."

BUT,

"not a hair on your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

In the face of doom and gloom and with the knowledge of prophetic texts that bring cause for concern, Jesus gives them cause for hope. He is their cause for hope.

He exhorts them, he urges them, to live the life to which they have been called. People of God, we receive that call today. We have heard for weeks about the difficulty of this calling to be people of faith. We have heard what it will take and we have been warned it won't be easy.

In a world that is far too similar to the one that Jesus warns will be coming, we need to remember that people have been predicting the end of the world for 2000 years. And here we are. They've been wildly wrong.

So, do we cling to the doom and gloom, thinking this is the end?

Or, do we hear the word of hope that each of our readings reminds us of?

Do we idly cling to the materialistic earthly things, or do we cling to the promise of Jesus Christ?

I know it is scary and certainly doesn't make the hear and now easier, but it is a reminder of the higher calling to which we are called.

In Jesus Christ we are called, as people of faith, to be a voice for those whose voice has been silenced. To bring release to the captives and restore sight to the blind. We are urged to feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted. Bind up the brokenhearted and preach good news to the poor.

People of God, these are Jesus words, not mine.

This is what we are called to be in a world that resembles the world of the end times that Jesus predicts. Because, in that warning, and it is often only the warning that we want to hear, there is hope.

The son of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. Do not be weary in doing what is right. Not a hair on your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Reviving God, keep your church active in its mission and ministry. Encourage bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders to risk boldly in their proclamation and fill them with wisdom and endurance for challenging times. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the northern hemisphere prepares for winter, make us mindful of the ordered beauty of your creation. Teach us to treasure cycles of rest and new life. Help us care for what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Loving God, accompany all who make sacrifices for the sake of others. Safeguard first responders and active duty military personnel. Grant peace to veterans and heal any wounds in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, your people cry out to you. Sustain doctors, nurses, and hospital personnel in their tireless work. Uphold mental health professionals and those in their care. May the sun of righteousness rise on all who are sick (*especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Cassie, Verna, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Daniel*). Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Uniting God, unite this assembly in its shared mission and ministry for the sake of the gospel (*specific ministries or initiatives may be named*). Highlight ways we can better work together and give us patience to work through disagreement. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Consoling God, abide with all who grieve for loved ones who have died (*especially*). Comfort us with the promise of resurrection and new life with you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

**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 the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

### Communion

### Prayer

We give you thanks, most gracious God,  
that you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and given us a foretaste of Paradise.

Enliven us to be your body in the world  
and to serve those who are in need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

The God of peace,  
who creates all things and calls them good,  
who makes us alive in Jesus,  
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song

**“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”**

**#763 vs. 1,2,4**

### Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**

And all of Good Shepherd said,

**AMEN!**

## November Financial Snapshot

Through November 9th

Total Revenue **\$7,195**

Total Expenses **\$4,718**

**+\$2,477 Difference**

Rest of November

Financial Forecast

3 Sunday Offerings

**\$20,000 total expenses**

**Make sure you get your order in for the Christmas Poinsettia by Monday at 9 a.m. Call the church office at 715-834-2959.**

**Thank you to all those who brought baked goods for the Election Day Bake Sale.**

**Thanksgiving Worship with St. James will be Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd. Bring canned or dry goods for the Food Pantry.**

**Stand in the Light Memory Choir fall concert "In My Life" will be Thursday, Nov. 17. They will have an open dress rehearsal at 10 a.m and the evening concert is at 6:30 p.m.**

**Roosevelt PTA is at Culver's on Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 4-7 p.m.**