



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!
Pentecost 23 November 16, 2014

Preserved Blameless At His Coming

A Sermon Series from 1 Thessalonians

- 1:1–10 The Thessalonians – A Christian Example (10/19)
- 2:1–13 Trustworthy Teachers of the Word (10/26)
- 4:1–12 Saints are Called in Holiness (11/2)
- 4:13–18 The Coming of the Lord – We Have Hope (11/9)
- 5:1–11 The Coming of the Lord – We Are Ready

A Service of Word and Sacrament

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

NOTE TO VISITORS ABOUT COMMUNION

To share in the Lord's Supper at this congregation is an expression of unity in all the doctrines we confess (1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Cor. 10:17; 1 Cor. 11:27f). For this reason, if you are not a member of a CLC congregation, we ask that you first meet with the pastor so that he can explain our teachings and beliefs before communing as "one body" at the altar. You can read about our practice of close communion in the blue trifold pamphlet in the entry way. Thank you for your understanding. The pastor would be more than happy to talk with you after the service.

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 90:1–12 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.

OPENING PRAYER

Minister (M): O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that by the preaching of Your Word we may be brought to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.

Congreg. (C) Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" (VS 758:1-2)

1. Christ is made the sure foun-da-tion, Christ, our head and
 2. To this tem-ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of
 cor-ner-stone, Cho-sen of the Lord and pre-cious,
 hosts, and stay; Come with all your lov-ing-kind-ness,
 Bind-ing all the Church in one, Ho-ly Zi-on's
 Hear Your peo-ple as they pray; And Your full-est
 help for-ev-er And our con-fi-dence a-lone,
 ben-e-dic-tion Speak with-in these walls to-day.

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congreg. (C) Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1

M God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

M Let us pray.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us.

Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

M Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for our only, but also for the sins of the whole world. You are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GOD, WE PRAISE YOU

Te Deum

1 God, we praise You! God, we bless You! God, we name You
 2 True a - pos - tles, faith - ful proph - ets, Saints who set their
 3 Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Ev - er - last - ing
 4 Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will judge the

sov - 'reign Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,
 world a - blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un - heed - ed, Join one
 Son of God, Hum - ble was Your vir - gin moth - er, Hard the
 world You made; Lord, in mer - cy help Your ser - vants For whose

by Your Church a - dored: All cre - a - tion shows Your glo - ry;
 grow - ing song of praise, While Your Church on earth con - fess - es
 lone - ly path You trod: By Your cross is sin de - feat - ed,
 free - dom You have paid: Raise us up from dust to glo - ry;

Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne, Sing - ing, "Ho - ly,
 One ma - jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther, Son, and
 Hell con - front - ed face to face, Heav - en o - pened
 Guard us from all sin to - day. King en - throned a -

ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord of hosts and God a - lone!"
 Ho - ly Spir - it, God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.
 to be - liev - ers, Sin - ners jus - ti - fied by grace.
 bove all prais - es, Save Your peo - ple, God, we pray.

M The Lord be with you.

Luke 1:28

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

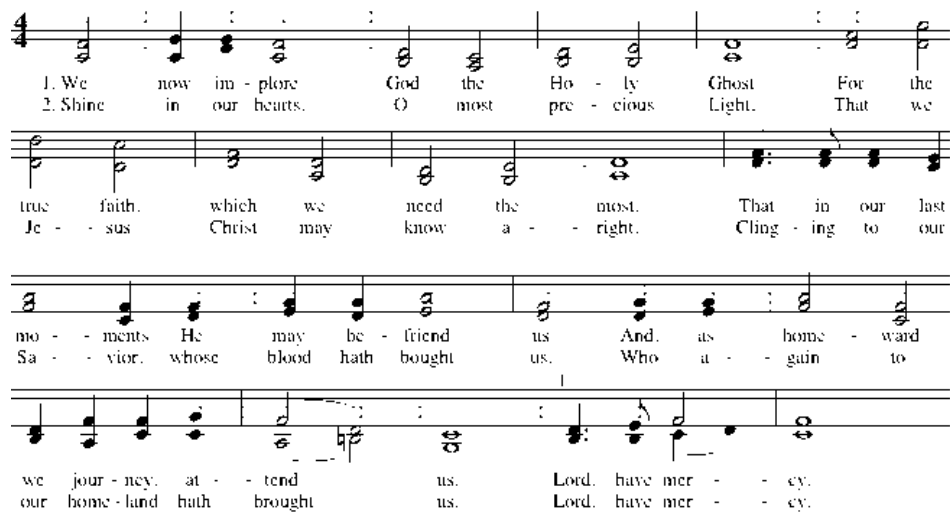
M Let us pray, ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 1:7–16

- 7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God;
For the day of the Lord *is* at hand,
For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
He has invited His guests.
- 8 “And it shall be,
In the day of the Lord’s sacrifice,
That I will punish the princes and the king’s children,
And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.
- 9 In the same day I will punish
All those who leap over the threshold,
Who fill their masters’ houses with violence and deceit.
- 10 “And there shall be on that day,” says the Lord,
“The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate,
A wailing from the Second Quarter,
And a loud crashing from the hills.
- 11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh!
For all the merchant people are cut down;
All those who handle money are cut off.
- 12 “And it shall come to pass at that time
That I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
And punish the men
Who are settled in complacency,
Who say in their heart,
‘The Lord will not do good,
Nor will He do evil.’
- 13 Therefore their goods shall become booty,
And their houses a desolation;
They shall build houses, but not inhabit *them*;
They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine.”
- 14 The great day of the Lord *is* near;
It is near and hastens quickly.
The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter;
There the mighty men shall cry out.
- 15 That day *is* a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess,
A day of clouds and thick darkness,
- 16 A day of trumpet and alarm
Against the fortified cities
And against the high towers.



1. We now im-plore God the Ho-ly Ghost For the
2. Shine in our hearts, O the most pre-cious Light, That the

true faith, which we need the most. That in our last
Je-sus Christ may know a-right. Cling-ing to our

mo-ments He may be-friend us And as home-ward
Sa-vior, whose blood hath bought us, Who a-gain to

we jour-ney, at-tend us. Lord, have mer-cy.
our home-land hath brought us. Lord, have mer-cy.

GOSPEL LESSON

M In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴“For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ²³ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

²⁴ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.’

²⁶ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own

with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CREED ~ The Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation,
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the Prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
And I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

TLH 359 (red hymnal)

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Sons of Light Take a Sober Look!

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:7*

OFFERTORY *Psalm 51:10-12*

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
 not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
 Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
 Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

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 the glory forever and ever. Amen!



A Service of the Sacrament



Self-Examination: Heart, Cross, Bread and Wine, Door

M Let us give thanks,

It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Together with all the host of heaven we give all glory, honor, and worship to You alone, who with Your Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

APPROACH

I come, O Sav-ior, to Your Ta - ble, For weak and
wea-ry is my soul; O Bread of Life, You are most
a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole: Lord may Your
bod-y and Your blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matt. 26, Mk 14, Lk 22, 1 Cor. 11

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'

M As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

AGNUS DEI ~ Lamb of God

"This is the Feast of Victory," based on Revelation 5



1. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4. Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5. For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Based on Revelation 5, © 1978, *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE, Irregular; Revised Edition, b.1923, © 1975, 1988, Richard Hillert

M O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world,
C Have mercy on us.

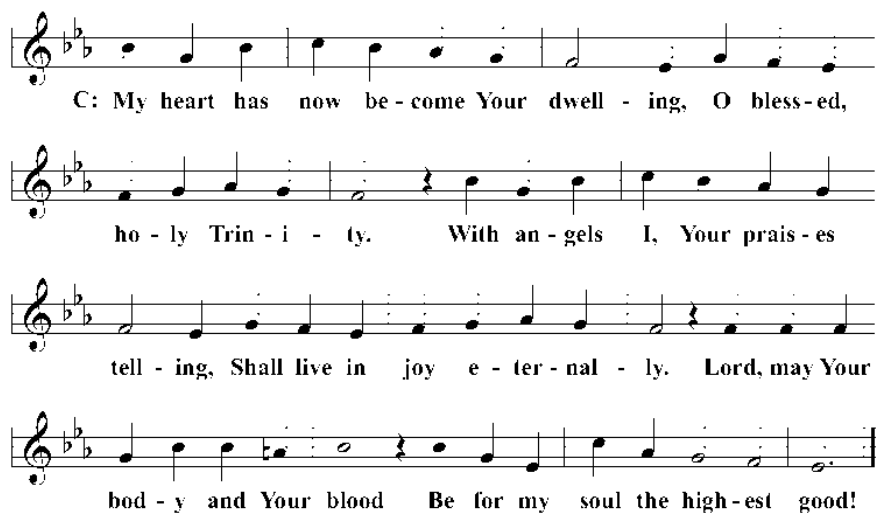


DISTRIBUTION



Silent prayer
 (for example: TLH p.118)

M Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es
 tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your
 bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

WS 767:2 (tan hymnal)

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

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Welcome! We wish a warm welcome to our guests this morning. It is our mission to share the good news that God gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16-17). May that good news go with you. Feel free to sign our guest book in the entry way. For more information about our church see the visitor comment cards and brochures in the entry way or visit our website at AscensionBatavia.org. We hope to see you again!

Participating in this Service of the Word

Music Asst.: S. Libby Lead Usher: G. Libby
 Minister: Pr. David Pfeiffer Comm. Asst. D. Eserhut