



WELCOME TO
ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH!
Pentecost 22 November 9, 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
- 5:1–11 The Coming of the Lord – We Are Ready (11/16)

A Service of the Word

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)

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 95, forepart of TLH p.143

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

Amos 5:18–24

- 18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
For what good *is* the day of the Lord to you?
It *will be* darkness, and not light.
- 19 It *will be* as though a man fled from a lion,
And a bear met him!
Or *as though* he went into the house,
Leaned his hand on the wall,
And a serpent bit him!
- 20 *Is* not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light?
Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?
- 21 “I hate, I despise your feast days,
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.
- 22 Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings,
I will not accept *them*,
Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.
- 23 Take away from Me the noise of your songs,
For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.
- 24 But let justice run down like water,
And righteousness like a mighty stream.

SECOND LESSON

Psalm 70

- 1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
Make haste to help me, O Lord!
- 2 Let them be ashamed and confounded
Who seek my life;
Let them be turned back and confused
Who desire my hurt.
- 3 Let them be turned back because of their shame,
Who say, “Aha, aha!”
- 4 Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
And let those who love Your salvation say continually,
“Let God be magnified!”
- 5 But I *am* poor and needy;
Make haste to me, O God!
You *are* my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay.

GRADUAL HYMN *rise if able* “We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost” (TLH 231)

1. We now im-plore God the Ho-ly Ghost For the
2. Shine in our hearts. O the most pre-cious Light. That we
true faith. which we need the most. That in our last
Je-sus Christ may know at-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 25:1–13

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ “And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

M This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CREED ~ Apostolic Creed

C **I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there He will come 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

TLH 463:1-5 (red hymnal)

For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest

SERMON

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

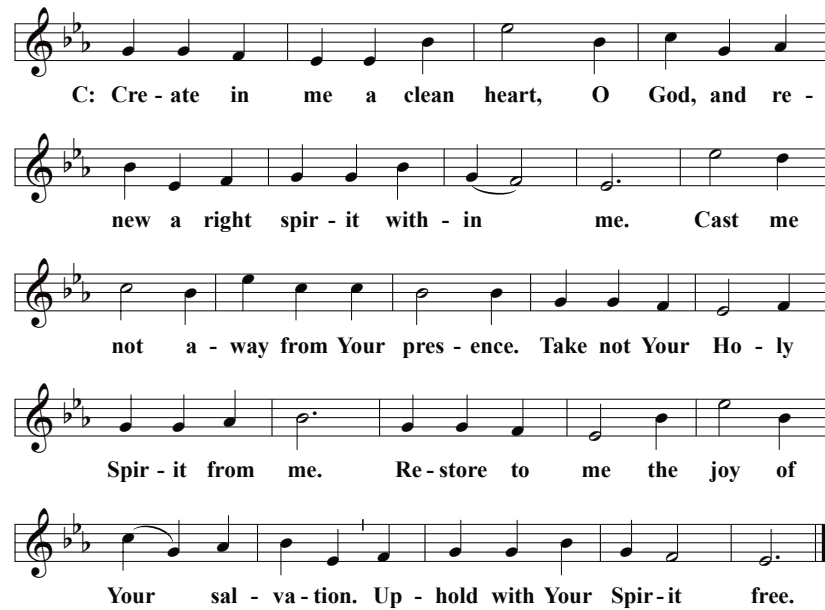
¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Hope Comes with a Shout!

1. It is the certainty of a shout that is coming
2. It is based on a shout from the past
3. It brings a shout which changes our lives today

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

Philippians 4:7



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

We thank You Lord for Your resurrection, for through it You have given us a new birth into a living hope. In this hope we pray for the Church of God and all people according to their needs,

For the Church as she awaits the yet more glorious day, that she would be preserved without spot, blameless until the saints rise in bright array, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For teachers and preachers that the truth of the resurrection would be proclaimed without error and against all deception, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those who sorrow over the death of a fellow believer that the hope and promise of our Lord's coming to raise the living and the dead would give them hope, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For those saints who are still living that they would endure the persecution and temptations of these last days, repentant and faithful until their Lord's return coming, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For our nation that the newly elected officials would assume their office with all dignity, honesty, and justice, defending us and promoting what is right, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the widows and orphans in the world that they would find consolation and care in the fellowship of the Church, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For young families who face the early trials of marriage and parenting that they would keep Christ at the core of their relationship together and in selfless repentance withstand the assaults of the devil, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For the elderly who face deteriorating health and loss of independence that they would be renewed by the comfort of the gospel and so give testimony to the hope that is in them, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

For all the world as these last days grow dark that the light of Christ's Word would awaken all people to prayer and readiness for the Bridegroom's return, let us pray to the Lord, **Lord have mercy.**

In this living hope we ask these things and with a watchful, humble heart we join together to pray,

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!

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

TLH 463:6-8 (red hymnal)

For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest

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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.: Dr. M. Kuehne Lead Usher: G. Suwanski
Minister: Pr. David Pfeiffer