



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020

AS WE GATHER: In a world filled with death, war, and evil, how are we to face what feels like an unknowable future? What do we do with our anxiety regarding the days ahead? This 4-week series guide is based on the books of 1 and 2 Thesalonians and provides comfort and reassurance to those living in uncertain times. These letters discuss the future of Christ's Second Coming, and what believers should do while awaiting His return. Paul encourages believers to be prepared, to cling to the truth of what they have been taught, and to live responsibly in light of the future. How can we take these words to heart, and face the future without fear? We'll hear more about this through Paul's letter to believers in a similar circumstance.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #727, vs. 1,2,4

"On Eagles' Wings"

1 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!"

Refrain: And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
 Bear you on the breath of dawn,
 Make you to shine like the sun,
 And hold you in the palm of His hand.

2 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. Refrain

4 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. Refrain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 18

Pastor: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

People: **The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,**

Pastor: My God, my Rock, in whom I take refuge,

People: **My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

Pastor: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,

People: **And I am saved from my enemies.**

Pastor: For this I will praise You, O LORD, among the nations,

People: **And sing to Your Name.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our heavenly Father has done wonderful things for us. He has given us more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Yet, there have been times when we have been ungrateful for God's gifts, times when we have been lazy and selfish with what He has given us, times when we have been unfaithful servants. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

People: **Heavenly Father, We confess that we have not been faithful with all of the good gifts You have given us. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be restored as Your servants.**

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to be with you always. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise 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.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE #801, vs. 1,4

“How Great Thou Art”

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;
Refrain.

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!

4 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.

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SALUTATION

Pastor The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O Lord, You granted Your prophets and apostles
strength to resist the temptations of the devil and
courage to proclaim repentance. Give us pure
hearts and minds to follow Your Son faithfully
even into suffering and death; through the same
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 19:23-29

²³ *“Oh that my words were written!
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
²⁴ Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!
²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷ whom I shall see for myself,*

*and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!
²⁸ If you say, 'How we will pursue him!'
and, 'The root of the matter is found in him,'
²⁹ be afraid of the sword,
for wrath brings the punishment of the sword,
that you may know there is a judgment."*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "God Chose Us!" Miss Heidi

EPISTLE 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope

HYMN OF THE DAY (Please stand)

#728

*“How Firm A Foundation”
(alternate tune: St. Denio)*

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
 Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
 What more can He say than to you He has said
 Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
 For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.
- 3 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
 I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
 That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
 I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!
- 4 “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
 My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
 The flames will not hurt you; I only design
 Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- 5 “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
 My sov’reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
 And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
 Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

CREEDAL STATEMENT

- Pastor:** But we do not want you to be uninformed,
 brothers, about those who are asleep, that you
 may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose
 again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with
 him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thess. 4:13-
 14)
- Pastor:** Until that time, Jesus has given us much to occupy
 our time:
- Men:** **Respect those who labor among you and are
 over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to
 esteem them very highly in love because of
 their work. Be at peace among yourselves.**

Pastor: And we urge you, brothers and sisters:
Women: **Admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.**

People: **Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:12-18)**

Pastor: To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
People: **So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that we were taught, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (2 Thess. 2:14-15)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, You have placed us in various vocations for the sake of Your people. Strengthen us when we face challenges and trials that would tempt us to abandon Your Church. Forgive us when we go astray. Bring back all those who have wandered from the faith. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in Your Church, that we work together for the common good and spread the good news of Your kingdom to all nations. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in the governments of the world, that citizens of all nations might be treated with fairness and justice. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, the day of Jesus' return is drawing near. Give us patience and faith as we await His return. Embolden us to serve our neighbors and never grow weary of doing good. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, disease and devastation have infected so much of Your creation, but we know Your healing is always close at hand. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, and injustice. Heal them according to Your will, and send justice for the oppressed. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, by the resurrection of Your Son, death has been destroyed. Yet each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

People: **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

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

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

All: **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

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

#741, vs. 1,2,6,8

"Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense
And my Savior, now is living!
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope here given,
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many_an anxious thought.

- 2 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
Likewise I to life shall waken.
He will bring me where He is;
Shall my courage then be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head
Rise and leave His members dead?
- 6 Then take comfort and rejoice,
For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice;
Dying, they will never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.
- 8 O, then, draw away your hearts
From all pleasures base and hollow;
Strive to share what He imparts
While you here His footsteps follow.
As you now still wait to rise,
Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

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Lay Readers:

8:00AM: John Uttech

10:30AM:

Acolytes:

8:00AM: Nolan Walsh

10:30AM: Preston Manthei & Grant Manthei

Sound:

8:00AM: Shannon Bader

10:30AM: Patricia Klug

Elders:

8:00AM: John Uttech

9:15AM: Rick Debroux

10:30AM: Brad Baker