

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all
The wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light,
No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we
Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: The Lord reigns!

People: He is robed in majesty!

Pastor: The world is established.

People: It shall not be moved.

Pastor: God's throne is established from of old.

People: Our God is from everlasting.

Pastor: His decrees are very trustworthy.

People: Holiness befits the Lord's house forevermore.

Pastor: Christ is coming soon.

People: Therefore stay awake and remain prepared.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Christ is coming again and coming soon. Although we know this, although we have heard His words and warning, we have not always acted as though Christ were coming soon. At times we have grown complacent and lazy, focused on the things of this world rather than on Christ, His Word, and His salvation. As we gather together in the Lord's house, let us consider our failure to live according to His holiness.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: **We have not always lived according to Your Word. We have fallen asleep in the comfort of our sins. We have not stayed awake and remained prepared for the return of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and stir us up so that we might prepare ourselves and others for Christ's return.**

Pastor: Because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, you are presented blameless before the presence of God. As a called and ordained servant of the risen Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. To God be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"You Are Holy"

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always evermore than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raise from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing Hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing Hosanna to our God!

You Are Holy by Per Harling Text: © 1990, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, All rights reserved. ONE LICENSE, License # A-727276dkld ddde

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into the world to die and rise for the sins of the world, and You have promised that He is coming again soon. Keep us firm in the true faith, ever clinging to Your promises and ever watchful for Your Son's return, 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

Ezekiel 1:1-14

In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. ²On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), ³the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the LORD was upon him there.

⁴As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. ⁵And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, ⁶but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. ⁷Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. ⁸Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: ⁹their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle. ¹¹Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. ¹²And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. ¹³As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. ¹⁴And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-44

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous

will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON "Faithful...Until He Returns"
Pastor Jeff Schubert

HYMN OF THE DAY (Please stand)

#348

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

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.**
- All:** **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.
- All:** **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)**
- But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. (1 Thess. 5:8)**
- All:** **Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as we are doing. (1 Thess. 5:11)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole Christian community around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the good news that is ours in Christ Jesus. Together we say:

People: Amen and amen.

Pastor: We pray for all nations of the earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule, there may be peace. And we pray for our own nation, that it may seek to bring that which is good and God-pleasing about in every global situation. Together we say:

People: Amen and amen.

Pastor: We pray for all those who labor in the fields of the Lord, that the Good Shepherd would lead them to pleasant pastures and give them joy in their callings. And we pray that the God of all grace would continue to raise up men and women to serve in vocations of service in the Church. Together we say:

People: Amen and amen.

Pastor: We pray for our lives and for the situations in which we are placed day by day at home, in the workplace, in schools, or wherever our paths lead us, that we may be peacemakers and peace bringers, carrying out the command to love one another as our Lord has loved us. Together we say:

People: Amen and amen.

Pastor: We pray for the special needs of this day, including health and family concerns, joys and sorrows, and all that is on our hearts. Together we say:

People: Amen and amen.

Pastor: With gratitude, we remember all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith, whose witness remains to bless and inspire us. May we with confidence follow in their footsteps and be led by the Holy Spirit. Together we say:

People: Amen and amen.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, 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 #515 "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience
 Their cross and suff'rings bore,
 Shall live and reign forever
 When sorrow is no more.
 Around the throne of glory
 The Lamb they shall behold;
 In triumph cast before Him
 Their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
 O Jesus, now appear;
 Arise, O Sun so longed for,
 O'er this benighted sphere.
 With hearts and hands uplifted,
 We plead, O Lord, to see
 The day of earth's redemption
 That sets Your people free!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2020
Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Lay Readers:

8:00AM: Janet Prox

10:30AM: David Bahr

Acolytes:

8:00AM: Jacob Plopper & Owen Leibham

10:30AM: Pierce Marriott & Bret Barnes

Sound:

8:00AM: Todd Radke

10:30AM: Amelia Graf

Elders:

8:00AM: Paul Ewan

9:15AM: Paul Ewan

10:30AM: Rick Debroux