



The Third Sunday of End Time

SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

NOVEMBER 12, 14, 15 2020

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL
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Unnumbered choirs before the shining throne Their joyful anthems raise
Till heaven's halls are echoing with the tone Of that great hymn of praise
And all its host rejoices, And all its blessed throng Unite their myriad voices
In one eternal song. *Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High (CW#212)*

OPENING HYMN

Jerusalem the Golden (CW#214:1,2,3,4)

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century, abr.;
tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

- 1 *Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest-
The sight of it refreshes The weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.*
- 2 *They stand, those halls of Zion, All jubilant with song
And bright with many an angel And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them; The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.*
- 3 *There is the throne of David, And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast;
And they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.*

*4 Oh, sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
Oh, sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest;
You are with God the Father And Spirit ever blest.*

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE RESURRECTION COMFORT

from Christian Funeral

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The Apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though dies; and whoever lives and believe in me will never die." Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: When Christ, who is our life appears,

C: Then we also will appear with him in glory

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: And serve Him day and night in His temple.

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: Never again will we thirst.

M: For the Lamb at the center of the Throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water,

C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

M: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:1-6

Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. ² Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion. ³ For this is what the LORD says: "You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed." ⁴ For this is what the Sovereign

LORD says: "At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. ⁵ "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. ⁶ Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 84

M: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;

C: my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

M: Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young – a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

M: Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

C: They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

M: Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

C: Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

M: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

M: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

ALL: O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

VERSE OF THE DAY

ALL: Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. Alleluia. (Rev. 7:15a cf. NIV)

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

HYMN

For All the Saints (CW#551:1,2,5-7)
Text: William W. How, 1823-97, abr., alt.

- 1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who their faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 2 You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight
And in the darkness drear their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon, to faithful warriors comes their rest.
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- 7 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles Creed

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

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness (CW#376:1,5,6)

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-60, abr.;
tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt.

*1 Jesus, your blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.*

*5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.*

*6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH for Saints Triumphant

M: Lord of eternity and King of saints, all the heavens adore you. Saints and angels sing before you.

C: **We too join them to praise your majesty.**

M: You clothe us with garments of splendor. You bless us with grace and mercy in this life and eternal glory forever. What undeserved love you show us!

C: **We thank you, Lord, that you have made us your saints.**

M: Encourage us by your gracious promises. Forgive our failures to live as you desire. Strengthen the faith of all who are weak and wandering.

C: **Give us power to live as your faithful people.**

M: Your saints will triumph forever in new heavens and a new earth. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. We anticipate with joy an eternity of perfect fellowship with you.

C: **Be with us as we work and witness for Christ, so that many more people can join us before your throne.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Lord of life, the day is coming when you will come down from heaven with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. On that glorious day, the saints triumphant will rise in bright array, clothed in your perfect righteousness.

C: **Give us strength until that day when we will share fully in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See (#CW 219)

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.;

tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

*Lord, when your glory I shall see And taste your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought,
As your own bride I shall be brought To stand in joy beside you.*