

Tribulation Sunday

November 19, 2023

Opening Hymn #400

Take My Life and Let It Be

1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

3. Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all, for Thee.

Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

P 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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He

giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪Amen.

Introit

P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C: In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C: for no one living is righteous before you.

P: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

C: I ponder the work of your hands.

P: I stretch out my hands to you;

C: my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

P: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

C: Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

P: For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

C: In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C: In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Gloria Patri

C ♪Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.

Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

P The Lord be with you
C ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect for the Day

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ **Amen**

The First Lesson – Zephaniah 1:7-16

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 90:1-12
WS p. 39

Antiphon – Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1 Lord, you have been our | dwelling place*
in all gener- | ations.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had
formed the earth | and the world,*
from everlasting to everlasting | you are God.

3 You return | man to dust*

and say, “Return, O chil- | dren of man!”

4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when |
it is past,*

or as a watch | in the night.

5 You sweep them away as | with a flood;*

they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed
in the | morning:

6 in the morning it flourishes and | is renewed;*
in the evening it fades and | withers.

7 For we are brought to an end by your | anger;*

by your wrath we | are dismayed.

8 You have set our iniquities be- | fore you,*

our secret sins in the light of your | presence.

9 For all our days pass away un- | der your wrath;*

we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

10 The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength
| eighty;*

yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone,
and we | fly away.

11 Who considers the power of your | anger,*

and your wrath according to the | fear of you?

12 So teach us to number | our days*

that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Antiphon – Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

The Second Lesson – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now 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.

The Gradual

P: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Hallelujah!

Triple Hallelujah

The Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant

into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Confession of Faith
Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 #611 (v. 1-3, 5, 7)
The Day is Surely Drawing Near

1. The day is surely drawing near
When God's Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear
As Judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease
When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teacheth.

2. A trumpet loud shall then resound
And all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found
Shall from their sleep awaken;
But all that live shall in that hour
By the Almighty's boundless pow'r

Be changed at His commanding.

3. A book is opened then to all,
A record truly telling
What each hath done, both great and small,
When he on earth was dwelling;
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,
And all be known as they have been
In tho'ts and words and actions.

5. O Jesus, who my debt didst pay
And for my sin wast smitten,
Within the Book of Life, oh, may
My name be also written!
I will not doubt; I trust in Thee,
From Satan Thou hast made me free
And from all condemnation.

7. O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
Then hear us when we cry to Thee;
Come, mighty Judge, and make us free
From every evil! Amen.

Sermon Text – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Sermon

***God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our
Forgiveness of Others***

Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

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

P: Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to do Your will, for You are our God. Strengthen pastors to meditate on all You have done and proclaim Your Word in its truth and purity, that Your good Spirit may lead us on level ground, holy and righteous before You.

**1¹ Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten
Radiance of the Father's face,**

P: Holy God, a nation that despises You will be as a sacrifice to others, for it has rejected You as its strength and shield. Grant repentance in our land, that our laws may be just, our transactions honest and our love for others fervent.

**Word made flesh, who lived among us
Full of truth and full of grace,**

P: Lord God, enter not into judgment with Your servants, for no one living is righteous before You. Have mercy on those haunted by guilt and shame, and faithfully convince them of Your grace and holiness for them in Christ Jesus.

**Shine upon our human darkness;
Pierce the night that shrouds our race.**

P: Father in heaven, You have made us children of the light and of the day. Bless our homes, especially parents as they teach their children Your ways, that Your people may walk as those armored in faith, love and salvation.

**4⁴ Come, Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit
In our hearts Your work begin,**

P: Almighty God, give ear to our pleas on behalf of the afflicted [*including* _____]. For Your name's sake, preserve their life and grant them healing according to Your will. In Your righteousness, strengthen their faith through all trials and bring their souls out of trouble.

**Bring the healing restoration
Of Your image lost by sin;**

P: God of life, Your Son died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live with Him. Receive our thanks for Your kindness to all who have died in the faith. Comfort those who mourn with the consolation that all who die in Christ live with Him forever.

**From Your fullness all receiving
Grace on grace, new life within!**

P: God of grace, preserve us from the temptation to consider You a hard and unmerciful master. Keep us mindful that You give us every good thing in abundance, most of all a place in Your household; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The 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.**

Sermon Hymn #705
Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Your people free;
From our sins and fears release us
By Your death on Calvary.

2. Born Your people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Your gracious kingdom bring.

3. By Your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Your all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Your glorious throne.

Prayer

P Let us pray..... who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever,

C ♪ **Amen**

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♪ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

Closing Hymn #258
Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation

1. Lord of our life and God of our salvation.
Star of our night and Hope of every nation,
Hear and receive Thy Church's supplication,

Lord God Almighty.

2. See round Thine ark the hungry billows curling;
See how thy foes their banners are unfurling.

Lord, while their darts envenomed they are hurling,
Thou canst preserve us.

3. Lord, Thou canst help when earthly armor faileth;
Lord, Thou canst save when deadly sin assaileth;
Lord, o'er Thy Church nor death nor hell prevaileth;
Grant us Thy peace, Lord:

4. Peace in our hearts, our evil thoughts assuaging;
Peace in Thy Church where brothers are engaging;
Peace when the world its busy war is waging.
Calm Thy foes' raging.

5. Grant us Thy help till backward they are driven;
Grant them Thy truth that they may be forgiven;
Grant peace on earth or, after we have striven,
Peace in Thy heaven.

Silent Prayer

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