

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 16, 2025

Opening Hymn #53
Abide, O Dearest Jesus

1. Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Thy grace
That Satan may not harm us
Nor we to sin give place.
2. Abide, O dear Redeemer,
Among us with Thy Word
And thus now and hereafter
True peace and joy afford.
3. Abide with heavenly brightness
Among us, precious Light;
Thy truth direct and keep us
From error's gloomy night.
4. Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Thy Word.
5. Abide with Thy protection
Among us, Lord, our Strength,

Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

6. Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Thy love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

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 Je-
sus 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.

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.

The Salutation

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 – Malachi 4:1-6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. ⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 98

Antiphon – Surely God’s salvation is near to those who fear Him.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- |
tion for him.**

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the
| nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the
house of | Israel.*

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of
our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre,*

with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*

make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it;*

the world and those who | dwell in it!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together
be- | fore the LORD,*

for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world with | righteousness,*

and the peoples with | equity.

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 – Surely God's salvation is near to those who fear
Him.*

The Second Lesson – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

Verse of the Day – Luke 21:28b

Alleluia. Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

The Gospel – Luke 21:5-28

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first

take place, but the end will not be at once.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives. ²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of

the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

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

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.

4. Then woe to those who scorned the Lord
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word
And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
And at the Judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.

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.

6. Therefore my Intercessor be
And for Thy blood and merit
Declare my name from judgment free
With all who life inherit,
That I may see Thee face to face
With all Thy saints in that blest place
Which Thou for us hast purchased.

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 – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Sermon

God's Plan of Redemption Trumps Earthly Destruction and Violence

Offertory

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

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: We give You thanks, O Lord, for the gift of family, and we ask You to bless the homes in which Your people dwell. Make them to be places of blessing and peace centered in Your Word, where the faith is preserved and passed on to children and grandchildren.

**1. Lift ev'ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. ...**

P: Uphold all ministers of Your Gospel and those who hear it gladly. Cause Your Word to be honored and so deliver those who hear and believe it from wicked and evil men. Give a mouth and wisdom to Your people in all adversity to confess You boldly and to endure faithfully to the end.

**Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.**

P: Holy God, hear Your people as they pray, and grant to us all things needful and beneficial according to Your gracious promise in Christ, our Lord. Keep us from being led astray by those who speak lies in Your name. Awaken within us ears to hear Your Word and hearts to believe, even in the face of trial and trouble, that we may be found faithful when our Lord comes in His glory to finish His new creation.

2. Stony the road we trod,

**Bitter the chast'ning rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed? ...**

P: Your Christ is our Rising Sun with healing in His wings. Shine His light upon the sick, those who suffer loss and persecution for the sake of Your name, those whose hearts are heavy with grief, and all who have requested our prayers [*especially* _____].

**We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

P: Lord, You judge the world with righteousness and Your people with equity. Bless us with good and faithful leaders and government to defend Your people, punish the evildoer and encourage virtue. Raise up those who will serve the cause of peace among the nations.

**3. God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray. ...**

P: O Lord, You are the strength of Your people. Grant that we may not give into temptation or be caught up in evil but endure through Your grace to the day of Christ's return. We pray that we would be found holy and blameless by the power of His grace when You

bring the dawn of the Last Day and lead us into the place where there is no night, no darkness and no death.

**Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,
where we met Thee;**

**Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world,
we forget Thee;**

**Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.**

P: Blessed Lord, You have promised never to abandon us and to provide all that we need for this day and for eternal life. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant them all good things for Your mercy's sake. We pray in the name of ***please stand*** 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.**

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 #473
The Church's One Foundation

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His won blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2. Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

3. The Church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end.
Though there be those that hate her.
False sons within her pale,
Against both foe and traitor
She ever shall prevail.

4. Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

5. Mid toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore,
Til with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Silent Prayer

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