

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—  
PROPER 27**

What Encouraging Words!

November 8, 2020



**AS WE GATHER**

We hear today the extremely encouraging words from the apostle Paul concerning our everlasting life. Paul tells us, “We will always be with the Lord.” What comforting words! What encouraging words! You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN**                      When We All Get to Heaven

1        Sing the wonderous love of Jesus,  
Sing His mercy and his grace;  
In the mansions bright and blessed,  
He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory!

2        While we walk the pilgrim  
pathway,  
Clouds will over spread the sky;  
But when traveling days are over,  
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory!

3        Let us then be true and faithful,  
Trusting, serving everyday;  
Just one glimpse of Him in glory  
Will the toils of life repay.

When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory!

4        Onward to the prize before us!  
Soon His beauty we'll behold;  
Soon the pearly gates will open-  
We shall tread the streets of gold.

When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory!

**INVOCATION**

Pastor:     In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People:     **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver us!

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us!**

Pastor: May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!

**People: May we say evermore, "God is great!"**

Pastor: For Christ is coming soon.

**People: Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**

Pastor: Soon, He will raise the dead.

**People: And we will always be with the Lord.**

Pastor: He is our help and our deliverer.

**People: O Lord, do not delay!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity and not always sought justice. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin. Amen**

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. 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.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

**HYMN OF PRAISE**    LSB 802 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, encourage us with Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments, that we be strengthened for service to You and our neighbors as we await the return of Jesus, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:18–24*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE *Matthew 25:13*

Pastor: Alleluia. "Watch therefore,

**People: for you know neither the day nor the hour". Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1–13*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty- fifth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** LSB 748 "I'm But a Stranger Here"

## SERMON

**CREED**    *Apostles' Creed*

**People:**    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 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

**OFFERTORY**    LSB 786 tune 917 “Lord of All Good”

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD'S PRAYER**    *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**    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.**

**HYMN**                    LSB 515 tune 660 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

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