

*Music Prelude/Ringing of the Bell/Welcome*

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

*2 Peter 3:3-4,8-10a,13*

R First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

**C They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation...."**

R But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

**C The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

R But the day of the Lord will come like a thief....

**C But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.**

**SONG** *"Come, Now is the Time to Worship"*

**Come, now is the time to worship.**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship.**

**Come, just as you are before your God, come.**

**One day every tongue will confess You are God.**

**One day every knee will bow.**

**Still the greatest treasure remains**

**For those who gladly choose You now.**

**Come, now is the time to worship.**

**Come, now is the time to give your heart.**

**Come, just as you are to worship.**

**Come, just as you are before your God,**

**Come, ... come, .... come.**

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## FIRST READING    Zephaniah 1:7–16

- <sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the LORD is near;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.
- <sup>8</sup>And 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.
- <sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish  
everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.
- <sup>10</sup>"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.
- <sup>11</sup>Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!  
For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
- <sup>12</sup>At 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.'
- <sup>13</sup>Their 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."
- <sup>14</sup>The 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.
- <sup>15</sup>A 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,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

### 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While 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. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### SONG "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth  
Will grow strangely dim  
In the light of His glory and grace. *Repeat*

*Isaiah 45:22© Public Domain CCLI License No. 187269 WHM 491*

*(Stand)*

## GOSPEL READING

### Matthew 25:14–30

<sup>14</sup>Jesus said: "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And 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.' <sup>21</sup>His 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.' <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup>His 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.' <sup>24</sup>He 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, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But 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? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For 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. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## CONFESSION

P "If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?" *Psalms 130:3*

C **With Isaiah we confess, "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips."**  
*Isaiah 6:5*

**"Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in You my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of Your wings."** *Psalms 57:1*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *1 John 1:8*

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as**

ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## **ABSOLUTION**

P "Hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins." *Psalm 130:7, 8.*

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *John 20:23*

**C Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## **SONG OF THE DAY**

*"Amazing Love"*

**My Lord, what love is this that pays so dearly;  
That I, the guilty one may go free. *Chorus.***

**Amazing love, O what sacrifice,  
The Son of God, given for me;  
My debt He pays and my death He dies,  
That I might live, that I might live.**

**And so they watched Him die, despised, rejected;  
But, O the blood He shed flowed for me. *Chorus.***

**And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers;  
Come wash your guilt away, live again. *Chorus.***

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## **CHILDREN'S TALK**

**SERMON While You Are Waiting... (Matthew 25:14-30)**

## **OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Lord in Your mercy . . . Hear our prayer.***

## LORD'S PRAYER

### THE BLESSING

Pastor: As God sent His Son into the world,

**People: So He also sends us, His children, into the world.**

Pastor: As God equipped His Son with the Spirit,

**People: In like manner He equips us.**

Pastor: As God blessed His Son,

**People: So, likewise, He blesses us.**

### 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 on you and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

### THE CLOSING SONG "*Sing to the King*"

**Sing to the King who is coming to reign**

**Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain.**

**Life and salvation His empire shall bring,**

**And joy to the nations, when Jesus is King.**

*Chorus:*

**Come, let us sing a song,**

**A song declaring that we belong to Jesus;**

**He is all we need. Lift up a heart of praise.**

**Sing now with voices raised to Jesus. Sing to the King.**

**For His returning we watch and we pray;**

**We will be ready the dawn of that day.**

**We'll join in singing with all the redeemed,**

**'cause Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.**

*Sing Chorus twice, then ending*

*Ending:*

**Sing to the King. Sing to the King.**

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