

Sunday, September 24, 2023, 9:00am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Stand Up/Stand Firm



STAND | STAND
UP | FIRM

P H I L I P P I A N S 1 : 1 2 - 3 0

Paul invites us to join him in saying, “My imprisonment is for Christ.”

This morning we see Paul as an example that when trial or persecution comes it’s for the extension of Christ’s kingdom and the saving message of the Gospel.

Prelude

#837, Lift High the Cross

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod, Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign, The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

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

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness, therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and each other that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Jesus, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon me, forgive me my sins, and lead me to everlasting life. Amen.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

KYRIE LSB 204

C: Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS LSB 204

C:

**1 To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

**C: Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on
anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to
Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

Children's Time

Isaiah 55:6–9

“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM - I'd Rather have Jesus

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30 [Sermon Text]

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the

word without fear....for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C: These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when

those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

P: We profess our common faith,

C: 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.

#668, Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

1 Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you, O Christians, lest the foe destroy you;
For Satan has designed your fall. Wield God’s Word, the weapon glorious;
Against all foes be thus victorious, For God protects you from them all.
Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Emmanuel. Hail the Savior! The strong foes yield
To Christ, our shield, And we, the victors, hold the field.

2 Cast afar this world’s vain pleasure And boldly strive for heav’nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior’s might. Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
For Jesus from all harm will hide you. By faith you conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul! Look forward to the goal! Joy awaits you. The race well run,
Your long war won, Your crown shines splendid as the sun.

3 Wisely fight, for time is fleeting; The hours of grace are fast retreating; Short, short is this our
earthly way. When the Lord the dead will waken And sinners all by fear are shaken,
The saints with joy will greet that day. Praise God, our triumph’s sure. We need not long
endure Scorn and trial. Our Savior King His own will bring To that great glory which we sing.

Text: Wilhelm Erasmus Arends, 1677–1721; tr. John M. Sloan, 1835–after 1890, alt.

Text: Public domain

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying (826)

- 1 *Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the sheaves away?" Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee. Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me"?*
- 2 *If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment's dread
alarms, You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.*
- 3 *If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall, Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all, With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God commands; You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.*
- 4 *Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do," While the multitudes are dying
And the Master calls for you. Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be; Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"*

Text (sts. 1–2, 4): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (st. 3): unknown, alt.

Text: Public domain

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: Lord, in Your mercy **C: Hear our prayer**

P: ...as Jesus taught us to pray,

C: LORD'S PRAYER

God's Benediction

#660, *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross. Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss. From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey; stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day. Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone. The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long; This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song. The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

Ministry Announcements

Postlude