

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost*  
*November 19, 2023*



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**PRESERVICE MUSIC** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (arr. Manz) &  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (arr. Schalk)

**A Reminder: Please be respectful to our brothers and sisters who use the time prior to worship for quiet meditation on God's Word. - Thank you**

**338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

*Tune: Hyfrydol*

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

**MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH**

(Jesus says,) "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger." *John 6:35*

**INVOCATION**

**L** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**L** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

**L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**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.**

**I** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**G Amen.**

## **INTROIT**

*Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!  
Enter not into judgment with your servant,  
for no one living is righteous before you.  
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;  
I ponder the work of your hands.  
I stretch out my hands to you;  
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.  
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!  
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!  
For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!  
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

## **HYMN OF THE MONTH - 336 LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING**

*The theme of this hymn is the final return of Christ, bringing both judgment and redemption. Stanza 3 reminds us that when Jesus returns, the holy wounds marking His suffering and death will be seen by all. We will marvel at those scars and know that He endured the cross in our place so that we are His redeemed children.*

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall their true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT 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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 25:14–30*

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<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.'"

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **730 WHAT IS THE WORLD TO ME**

- 1 What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure  
When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!  
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;  
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
- 2 The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty  
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.  
But what I truly prize Above all things is He,  
My Jesus, He alone. What is the world to me!
- 3 The world seeks after wealth And all that mammon offers  
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.  
I have a higher good, Content with it I'll be:  
My Jesus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
- 4 What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,  
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,  
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.  
Once more, then, I declare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text: Public domain

**SERMON** "Its Lock-In Time!" 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**CREED** Apostles' Creed (Creed can be found in the back of the hymnal and on the screens)

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition, please respond with the following:*

**L** Lord, in your mercy

**C** hear our prayer.

*At the end of the prayer:*

**C** Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

LSB 166

**L** The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

**C** Amen.

## **IN CHRIST ALONE**

In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm;  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;  
My Comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe;  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save;  
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied,  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again;  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny;  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;  
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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**POSTLUDE** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" (arr. Hayes)

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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***Thank you, Pat Crum, for leading us in worship at the early service.  
Thank you, Tim Forss for leading us in worship at the late service.***