

Worship Service for Advent 1

December 6, 2023

Theme of the Day: 1 Thessalonians is a book that has a lot in common with football's two-minute warning. In it Paul repeatedly says that world history is almost over (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–10). The time is short. We must prepare. It is time to implement our two-minute drill!

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it;

C **The world, and all who live in it;**

P For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

C **Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

P Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.**

P Lift up your heads, O you gates;

C **Lift them up, you ancient doors; That the King of glory may come in.**

P Who is he, this King of glory?

C **The LORD Almighty, he is the King of glory.**

P Lo! He comes with clouds descending.

C **Once for every sinner slain.**

P Thousand, thousand saints attending;

C **Swell the triumph of his train. Alleluia!**

P Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Hymn: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB # 341 v.1-2

Confession and Absolution:

P “They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.” (1 Thessalonians 1:9–10). O God, we confess that we are slow to turn away from our idols.

C **And even slower to serve you, the living and true God.**

P We wait for many things,

C **But rarely are we found waiting for Christ to return.**

P These sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

C **Forgive what our lips tremble to name and what our hearts can no longer bear.**

P Set us free from a past that we cannot change.

C **Open for us a future in which we can be changed.**

P And grant us grace to follow Jesus Christ, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

C **Then we will glorify you in our work produced by faith, our labor prompted by love, and our endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P As a called and ordained servant of Christ I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. You are free. Forever. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Maran-atha!* (*This is an Aramaic expression, appearing in 1 Corinthians 16:22, and meaning “Our Lord, come!”*)

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” LSB # 341 v. 3-4

Prayer of the Day:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 24:19–23

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Mark 13:1–10

Sermon: Our Two-Minute Drill

Hymn: “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” LSB # 336 v. 1-2

Prayers:

- P** Rejoicing in the hope of our Savior’s appearing, let us pray together, saying, Even so:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus!**
- P** For the Church, as we wait with eager expectation for the revealing of Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. Even so:
- C** **Have mercy, Lord Jesus!**
- P** For our mission, that we bring glory to God and healing to many people through our work produced by faith, our labor prompted by love, and our endurance inspired by hope. Even so:
- C** **Fill us, Lord Jesus!**
- P** For all the baptized, that we might live watchful and sober lives, eagerly looking forward to our Lord’s appearing. Even so:
- C** **Awaken us, Lord Jesus!**
- P** For all sisters and brothers of the Savior who cry out in their time of need, especially all who have asked for our prayers [*including _____*]. Loving Savior, be their joy in sorrow and their life in death. Even so:
- C** **Comfort them, Lord Jesus!**

- P** Yea, amen, let all adore Thee.
C **High on Thine eternal throne.**
P Savior take the power and glory,
C **Claim the kingdom as your own. Alleluia!**
P Thou shalt reign and Thou alone!

Hymn: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" LSB # 336 v. 3-4

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction:

- P** "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **The one who calls us is faithful and he will do it."**

Hymn: "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" LSB # 917

Silent Prayer: Heavenly Father, the time is short. Eternity is on the line. Empower me to listen and respond to Paul's plan for the church. In Jesus' name. Amen.