

Worship Service for Advent 2

December 13, 2023

Theme of the Day: What can we do when people we dearly love are caught in the midst of great pain and loss? When their world caves in? We can pray. We can pray like Paul.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C Amen.

P Endow the King with your justice, O God,

C **The royal Son with your righteousness.**

P He will judge your people in righteousness,

C **Your afflicted ones with justice.**

Men *The mountains will bring prosperity to the people,*

Women ***The hills the fruit of righteousness.***

Men *He will defend the afflicted among the people*

Women ***And save the children of the needy.***

P He will endure as long as the sun,

C **As long as the moon, through all generations.**

P He will be like rain falling on a mown field,

C **Like showers watering the earth. He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

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: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB # 348 v. 1-3

Confession and Absolution:

P Night and day Paul earnestly prayed for the Thessalonians, people close to his heart.

C **But heavenly Father, we are often stuck in the past;**

P Nursing old wounds, rehearsing sins of long ago;

C **Refusing to love and let go;**

P We hold grudges, keep score and hold on to hurts.

C **Even when people are crushed by the weight of living in this world.**

P Engulfed in our own needs;

C **We are blind to the needs of others and deaf to their cries for help.**

P O God, we need your Holy Spirit;

C **To break our stubborn hearts;**

P Heal ancient wounds;

C **And fill us with Christ's love.**

P Hear the Gospel that gives you new life. Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again. "May God strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." (*1 Thessalonians 3:13*) *Maranatha!* (*This is an Aramaic expression, appearing in 1 Corinthians 16:22, and meaning "Our Lord, come!"*)

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

Hymn: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB # 348 v. 4-5

Prayer of the Day:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 26:1-8

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Mark 13:11-20

Sermon: Praying Like Paul

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

Prayers:

- P** Heavenly Father, we pray from time to time;
- C** **But we want to pray more of the time.**
- P** We pray casually;
- C** **But we want to pray earnestly.**
- P** We pray for a change in our circumstances;
- C** **But we want to pray for a change in our character.**
- P** We pray for our needs to be met;
- C** **We want to pray for our love to increase.**
- P** Father, may we pray for love to increase and overflow.
- C** **And for hearts to be strengthened.**
- P** So that your church will be blameless and holy in your presence;
- C** **When our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.**
- 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: “Now the Light Has Gone Away” LSB #887

Silent Prayer: Teach me, O God, to see the needs of those crushed and trapped in life’s circumstances and then pray—pray like Paul! In Jesus’ name. Amen.