

Sunday, November 18, 2017  
26th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

*“Every Valley”*

John Ness Beck

David Bezona, tenor

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who calls us into an everlasting hope,  
who guides us to springs of the water of life,  
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.*

**C** **Amen!**

**P** *One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against  
God and one another.*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** *O God, our merciful redeemer,*

**C** **we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.**

**We fail to see you in our neighbor’s face.**

**We turn our ears from voices that cry out.**

**We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.**

**In your great mercy, forgive our sin**

**and strengthen us for service to all in need;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**P** *In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,  
and for † his sake,  
God forgives you all your sin.  
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad,  
beloved people of God.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

***"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"***

**ELW 632**

*vs. 3 Women, vs. 5 Men*

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.

**W** Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

**M** Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.

**\*GREETING**

**P** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**G** And also with you.

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

***"Glory to God"*** vs. 1

pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven;  
peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you,  
we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you;  
here on earth our songs we raise.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

📖 *Almighty God,*

📖 **your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***"I Go On"***

Bernstein

David Bezona, tenor

**FIRST READING**

**Daniel 12:1-3**

*The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.*

<sup>1</sup>“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

**Reflection**

*I am not a fan of dystopian literature (where the future is seen as dark and foreboding). If I had to choose, I prefer mysteries (where the problems may seem unsolvable, but the detective solves them by the end of the book and all is set right). Daniel is sort of a combination, although in Daniel's stories, all is set right by God, and Daniel's faith in God's power, even when it seems nothing can turn out right, keeps us returning to this book. In this text, the Archangel Michael is set to appear, because wickedness and evil appear to flourish and be unbeatable. There is a promise that, although believers anguish, they will be delivered. But how that will happen is not clear in the evil and difficult time that is pictured. What will happen to those who do not survive the evil times? (verses 1-2) Who are the wise? (verse 3) Daniel's proclamation is that even though tyrants appear to be winning, only the kingdom of God will last forever. How does this message give you strength? What happens to the power of evil when we believe God's promise of eternal life?*

**PSALM 16**

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my God above all others.”

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the Godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after | other gods  
 shall have their troubles | multiplied.  
<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods,  
 never take their names up- | on my lips.**  
<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup;  
 it is you who up- | hold my lot.  
<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land;  
 indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.**  
<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel;  
 my heart teaches me night | after night.  
<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD al- | ways before me;  
 because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.**  
<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices;  
 my body also shall | rest in hope.  
<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me | to the grave,  
 nor let your holy one | see the pit.**  
<sup>11</sup>You will show me the | path of life;  
 in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures  
 for- | evermore.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:11-25

*Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.*

<sup>11</sup>Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” <sup>13</sup>and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. <sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

<sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant that I will make with them  
 after those days, says the Lord:  
 I will put my laws in their hearts,  
 and I will write them on their minds,”

<sup>17</sup>he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another

to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **Reflection**

*This text is part of the argument of Hebrews that Christ's sacrifice is greater (and finally effective) than the sacrifice remembered by the priest in the temple. What is the difference between what they do and what Christ has done? (verses 11-12) What is God's promise to Christ through the time of his sacrifice? (verses 12-13) The author of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah and the psalms to assure us that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient. What happens when our sins are forgiven (verse 18) Since Christ's sacrifice is sufficient and effective, what does that do for us? (verses 19-22) If anyone is unsure about whether they are saved, or whether their sins are forgiven, what is the assurance this text gives? (verse 23) Who do we depend on for this assurance? What is our responsibility to each other because of this? (verses 24-25) How do you experience being "provoked" to love and good deeds by someone else? How do you encourage others?*

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**"Alleluia"**

pg. 205

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior:  
open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us;  
speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing  
for the good news that you bring.**

### **\*GOSPEL**

**Mark 13:1-8**

*In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>"Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

### **Reflection**

*This text reminds me of some great cities I have visited—Washington, D.C.; Berlin; Lincoln, NE (no kidding, the Capitol in Lincoln is a remarkable building!) I look at the monuments, the buildings, the museums, the universities, and marvel at their appearance of permanence, just as Jesus' and his disciples did in Jerusalem. What was Jesus' prediction about those buildings? (verses 1-2) What did the disciples want to know? (verse 3-4) Jesus' answer to them sounds*

like an answer to a question they didn't ask. What did he warn them about? (verses 5-6) And yet, he says, "do not be alarmed." What is happening? (verses 7-8) What are the signs he wants us to watch for? This sounds like the time we are living in! And yet, has there been a time when this has not been true? When I think about birth pangs, I remember how I longed at the end of my pregnancies for birth pangs! What are birth pangs a sign of? What are these birth pangs which Jesus describes a sign of? What is coming?

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

***"End of Times??!"***

Deaconess Brenda Bass

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***"When Peace like a River"***

**ELW 785**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

***Refrain***

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. ***Refrain***

He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ***Refrain***

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. ***Refrain***

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**☒ I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**\*PRAYER SONG**

*"Come and Fill Our Hearts"*

**ELW 528**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Alleluia!

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you made the church through the working of the Holy Spirit, and you provide the assurance of faith through your Son. Guide us in our proclamation of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You created all things and said your creation was good. Protect land and water from harm, cause all living things to thrive, and raise up stewards for the well-being of creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You desire peace for the whole world. Provide refuge for those in harm's way, bring an end to war, and instill in political leaders the love for all that comes from you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You reveal your compassion through caregivers, advocates, and medical professionals. Heal the sick, deliver the suffering, bind up the brokenhearted, provide shelter for the homeless and food for the hungry. We pray especially for *Elaine, Jim, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You bless us in our coming and our going, in our waking and our sleeping, and in our daily work. Make our love and good deeds a reflection of the freedom you give us in Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You grant us everlasting life. Through the witness of your saints who now rest in the Lord, inspire us in our lives of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, that we commend to you this day, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**C** **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

*“My Lord, What a Morning”*

**ELW 438**

*Refrain*

**My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You will hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**You will hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain***

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *final refrain*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Creator God,*

**C** **you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the**

wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

**\*DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, Holy  
Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Gathered by the light in our hearts, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**C** **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Hunger no more. Thirst no more. All are welcome to the banquet of life.*

**\*BLESSING**

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and  
keep you in his grace.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *Sovereign God,*

**C** **in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you,  
that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *The love of God surround you;  
the grace of ✠ Christ release you;  
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,  
now and forevermore.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

***"Days of Elijah"***

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

***Refrain***

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world  
And we are the labourers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord *Refrain*

**Bridge**

There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah (hey) *Refrain x2*

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** *Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.*

**C** **Thanks be to God!**