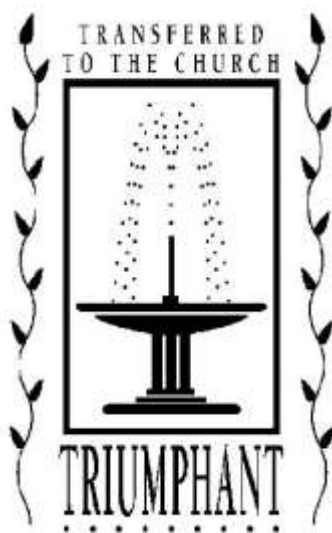


THE THIRD SUNDAY OF END TIME: SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

November 13, 2016

Worship Focus

THE PROMISES OF END TIME... “...they can no longer die...for they are children of the resurrection.”



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OPENING HYMN

728 - Jerusalem the Golden

Junior choir verse 1; congregation verses 2-3



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



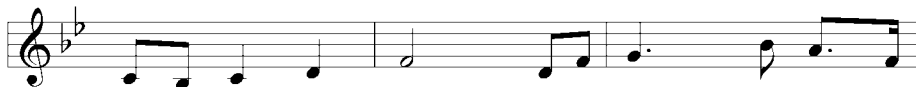
fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There



know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The



bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
song of them that feast. To God en - throned in



end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
 bring us To that dear land of rest Where
 glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The



midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.
 sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
 Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

INVOCATION

Minister In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Congregation A - men.

M Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.**

LORD HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

1 There is a high - er throne than all this
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be -
world has known, Where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue
fore the throne. We'll hon - or him in per - fect song
will one day come. Be - fore the Son we'll stand,
where we be - long. He'll wipe each tear - stained eye
made fault - less through the Lamb; Be - liev - ing
as thirst and hun - ger die. The Lamb be -
hearts find prom - ised grace; sal - va - tion comes.
comes our Shep - herd - King; we'll reign with him.

Refrain

Hear heav - en's voic - es sing; their thund - 'rous
 an - tem rings. Through em - 'rald courts and sap - phire skies
 their prais - es rise. All glo - ry, wis - dom, pow'r,
 strength, thanks, and hon - or are to God our King who
 reigns on high for - ev - er - more.

Tune: THERE IS A HIGHER THRONE (12 12 12 12 and Refrain)
 Text, Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Kristyn Getty, b. 1980 © 2003 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG Publishing.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

M Let us pray. Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 65:17-25

Though there will no peace for the wicked, the Lord promises peace to his saints in the New Jerusalem.

ISAIAH 65:17 “Behold, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ “Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
he who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere youth;
he who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
or plant and others eat.
For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy
the works of their hands.

²³ They will not toil in vain
or bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
but dust will be the serpent's food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.



PSALM

Psalm 150

Refrain Tune: Walter Pelz. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House.
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Praise God in his sanctu | ary;*
praise him in his mighty | heavens.

Praise him for his acts of | power;*
praise him for his surpassing | greatness.

Refrain

Praise him with the sounding of the | trumpet,*
praise him with the | harp and lyre,

praise him with tambourine and | dancing,*
praise him with | strings and flute,

praise him with the clash of | cymbals,*
praise him with resounding | cymbals.

Refrain

Let everything that has breath | praise the LORD.*
Praise | the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

Descriptive words of our beautiful relationship with the Lord Jesus abound in this section of Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians.

²THESSALONIANS 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

^{3:1} Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ² And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

JUNIOR CHOIR

When Trials Come

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty

*When trials come, no longer fear,
For in the pain our God draws near,
To fire a faith worth more than gold;
And there His faithfulness is told;
And there His faithfulness is told.*

*Within the night I know Your peace;
The breath of God brings strength to me,
And new each morning mercy flows,
As treasures of the darkness grow,
As treasures of the darkness grow.*

*I turn to wisdom not my own
For every battle You have known.
My confidence will rest in You;
Your love endures; Your ways are good.
Your love endures; Your ways are good.*

*When I am weary with the cost,
I see the triumph of the cross;
So in its shadow I shall run,
Till You complete the work begun;
Till You complete the work begun.*

*One day all things will be made new;
I'll see the hope You called me to
And in Your kingdom paved with gold,
I'll praise Your faithfulness of old;
I'll praise Your faithfulness of old.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the announcement of the Gospel the congregation responds:



GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38

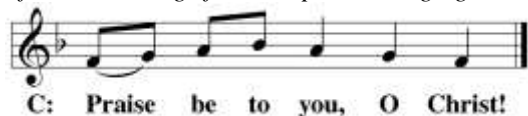
Jesus turns the Sadducees' test into a proclamation of resurrection promise.

LUKE 20:27 Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. ²⁸ "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. ²⁹ Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. ³⁰ The second ³¹ and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. ³² Finally, the woman died too. ³³ Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

³⁴ Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, ³⁶ and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. ³⁷ But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' ³⁸ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the reading of the Gospel the congregation responds:



CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

551 – For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their
2 You were their rock, their for- tress,
3 Oh, may your sol- diers, faith- ful,
4 Oh, blest com- mun- ion, fel- low-
5 And when the fight is fierce, the



la- bors rest, All who their faith be-
and their might; You, Lord, their cap- tain
true, and bold Fight as the saints who
ship di- vine! We fee- bly strug- gle;
war- fare long, Steals on the ear the

fore the world con-fessed, Your name, O
in the well-fought fight And in the
no-bly fought of old And win with
they in glo-ry shine, Yet all are
dis-tant tri-umph-song, And hearts are

Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest,
dark-ness drear their one true light,
them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
one with-in your grand de-sign,
brave a-gain and arms are strong.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon, to faithful warriors comes their rest.
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

8 From earth's wide bounds to ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

TEXT: William W. How, 1823-97. abe., alt.
TUNE: SINE NOMINE (10 10 10 with Alleluias) Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. © Oxford University Press.
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SERMON

Isaiah 65:17-19

It's Not a Better Place... It's the Best Place

PRAISE AND PRAYER

RESPONSE TO THE WORD



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Lord of eternity and King of saints, all the heavens adore you. Saints and angels sing before you.

C We too join them to praise your majesty.

M You clothe us with garments of splendor. You bless us with grace and mercy in this life and eternal glory forever. What undeserved love you show us!

C We thank you, Lord, that you have made us your saints.

M Encourage us by your gracious promises. Forgive our failures to live as you desire. Strengthen the faith of all who are weak and wandering.

C **Give us power to live as your faithful people.**

M Your saints will triumph forever in new heavens and a new earth. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. We anticipate with joy an eternity of perfect fellowship with you.

C **Be with us as we work and witness for Christ, so that many more people can join us before your throne.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Lord of life, the day is coming when you will come down from heaven with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. On that glorious day, the saints triumphant will rise in bright array, clothed in your perfect righteousness.

C **Give us strength until that day when we will share fully in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN

729 - There Is a Blessed Home



1 There is a bless - ed home be - yond this land of
2 There is a land of peace, good an - gels know it
3 O joy all joys be - yond, to see the Lamb who
4 Look up, you saints of God, nor fear to tread be -

woe, Where tri - als nev - er come, nor tears of
 well; Glad songs that nev - er cease with - in its
 died, And count each sa - cred wound in hands and
 low The path your Sav - ior trod of dai - ly

sor - row flow; Where faith is ful - ly lost in
 por - tals swell. A - round the glo - rious throne of
 feet and side; To give to him e - ter - nal
 toil and woe: Wait on - ly for a lit - tle

sight, and pa - tient hope is crowned, And ev - er -
 God the count - less saints a - dore Christ, with the
 praise for ev - 'ry tri - umph won, And sing through
 while in un - com - plain - ing love. His own most

last - ing light its glo - ry casts a - round.
 Fa - ther one, and Spir - it ev - er - more.
 end - less days the great things he has done!
 gra - cious smile will wel - come you a - bove.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
 Tune: ARIC (12 12 14 12) John C. Reim, b. 1958 © 2002 John C. Reim. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

M Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: A - men. A - men. A - - men.

CLOSING HYMN

219 - Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

Lord, when your glo - ry I shall see And taste your king - dom's
 plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al robe shall be, My
 joy be - yond all mea - sure! When I ap - pear be - fore your
 throne, Your right - eous - ness shall be my crown; With
 these I need not hide me. And there, in gar - ments rich - ly
 wrought, As your own bride I shall be brought To
 stand in joy be - side you.

TEXT: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
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