

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Always with the Lord/ What Encouraging Words!  
November 8, 2020



### AS WE GATHER

We hear today these words from the apostle Paul concerning everlasting life: “We will always be with the Lord.” Our Lord makes His presence known today in His Word and in the Lord’s Supper. You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence. We hear today the extremely encouraging words from the apostle Paul concerning our everlasting life. Paul tells us, “We will always be with the Lord.” What comforting words! What encouraging words! You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

### ✘ PREPARATION ✘

#### PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

O God, you alone are our Judge. As we gather, send your Spirit of truth to expose our self-deception and challenge our complacency so that we may surrender to your mercy and follow your will through Jesus Christ our Liberator. Lord, You call us to wait on You, but we get tired of waiting. Your answers to our prayers, Your call for us to serve You, the promise of Your coming Kingdom, they all seem to take so long. You tell us to watch for Your coming, Lord, but we’re not sure how to prepare for...a thief in the night, an undisclosed time, and Your disconcerting habit of secrecy and mystery. Yet, something inside whispers that You’re not all that hard to find; That You’re *always* coming to us, and that both the waiting and the watching, are more about being open to You now, than about trying not to be surprised in the future. And so we will keep waiting, and we’ll try to stay alert, so that we can catch the glimpses of Your glory that fill our day, every day. Amen.

#### WELCOME:

**WELCOME TO GOD’S HOUSE...** God has gathered us to this place, where we hear those stories which show us what the kingdom of God is like. God summons us to this place, where we can learn how to serve our God without reservation, or hesitation. God will send us from this place, to tell others of God's hopes and dreams, so they, too, can choose to follow God. We greet you in the wonderful and matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We greet you with open hearts. We believe strongly in the transforming power of Jesus Christ. To that end, we strive diligently to be instruments and resources for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We value the gift of a healthy Church environment and we seek to fulfill God’s command as we proclaim and teach, pray and worship, forgive and reconcile. We welcome your presence, and encourage you to worship with us at any time. Welcome!

## SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver us!

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us!**

Pastor: May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!

People: **May we say evermore, "God is great!"**

Pastor: For Christ is coming soon.

People: **Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**

Pastor: Soon, He will raise the dead.

People: **And we will always be with the Lord.**

Pastor: He is our help and our deliverer.

People: **O Lord, do not delay!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: **we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

✘ WORD ✘

**HYMN OF PRAISE**            **“Soon And Very Soon” TFBF 38 Sts. 1 & 2**

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:**            The Lord be with you.

**People:**            **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:**            Let us pray.

O Lord, encourage us with Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments, that we be strengthened for service to You and our neighbors as we await the return of Jesus, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**            **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Amos 5:18–24*            (The day of the Lord is coming.)

**Leader:**            This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**            **Thanks be to God.**

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**GRADUAL**    *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

**Leader:** These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Blessed are those whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**EPISTLE**        *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*    (We will always be with the Lord.)

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**            **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**         *Matthew 25:13*

**Leader:** Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Alleluia.



**People:**           **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Leader:            Lord Jesus, by Your death and resurrection, You destroyed death forever. While we look forward to the resurrection, each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Comfort them with Your presence and the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. For until Your return, we pray,

**People:**           **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Leader:            Lord Jesus, be present in Your Church. Give us faithful pastors, teachers, musicians, administrators, and other church workers, that we walk together with You, bringing Your Gospel to all nations. For until Your return, we pray,

**People:**           **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Leader:            Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People:**           **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**   *Matthew 6:9–13*

### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor:            The Lord bless you and keep you.  
                      The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
                      The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.           *Numbers 6:24–26*

**People:**           **Amen.**

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