



**“God’s Greater Story:
People Who Live by God’s Proclamation”**
Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:00AM
Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

Today we continue our series, “God’s Greater Story”, based upon a portion of Paul’s letter to the Church at Rome. This morning, we will consider Paul’s vision, a vision of God’s greater work for all people, Jews and Gentiles, in Christ, with the goal that this vision will inspire us, as it inspired Paul, to live as one people united in God’s mission.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain
- ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

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Stand

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,
C nor discipline me in your wrath.
- P** Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
C heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.
- P** My soul also is greatly troubled.
C But you, O Lord—how long?
- P** Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;

C save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Made weak, weary and worn out by life in this world, we too often fall into temptation and doubt God's faithfulness. Therefore let us come before God, confess our sin and seek His forgiveness and grace.

Silence for reflection.

P Almighty God,

C we are prone to listen to the wrong voices. Instead of Your clear direction for our lives, we hear the confusing and lying sounds of the brokenness around us. We are prone to find our own solutions to our problems. You give us promises to build up our hope and our courage, but we forget them. We need You to forgive us.

P 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.

C Amen. We are forgiven. God remains faithful to His promises.

Sit

HYMN

“You Are the Way; through You Alone”

LSB 526

- 1 You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.
- 2 You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.

Text: Public domain

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:3–14

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 24.

³As [Jesus] sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. ¹⁰And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN of the DAY

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

LSB 733

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op’ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

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Stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord Jesus Christ, through You all things were made. You have entrusted us with the care of all creation. Embolden us to be good and faithful stewards of all that You have made until You return to dwell with us again. For until Your return, we pray,

C come quickly, Lord Jesus.

P Lord Jesus, in Your incarnation and birth You deigned to dwell among us, even as an infant. Bring comfort to all those who are living through the challenges of infertility and miscarriage. Bring them Your healing, and give them wisdom as they seek to do Your will. For until Your return, we pray,

C come quickly, Lord Jesus.

P Lord Jesus, in Your earthly life You suffered much at the hands of lawless men. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, or injustice, [*especially* . . .]. Heal them according to Your will. For until Your return, we pray,

C come quickly, Lord Jesus.

P 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,

C come quickly, Lord Jesus.

P 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,

C come quickly, Lord Jesus.

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LSB 515

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;

In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.

- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!

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