

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome**Opening Hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”***Martin Luther, Frederic Hedge*

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate. On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing? Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same. And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled should threaten to undo us. We will not fear for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us. The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth. The Spirit and the gifts are ours, through Him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it:

People ***Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.***

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord:

People ***Who made heaven and earth.***

Celebrant I was glad when they said to me:

People ***Let us go to the house of the Lord.***

Celebrant Praise the Lord.

People ***The name of the Lord be praised.***

All ***Almighty God, You bring to light things hidden in darkness, and know the shadows of our hearts; cleanse and renew us by Your Spirit, that we may walk in the light and glorify Your name, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.***

Amen.

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first and great commandment is this: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

People ***Amen. Lord have mercy and write these laws in our hearts, we pray.***

Celebrant Glory to the Father.

People ***Glory to the Son.***

Celebrant Glory to the Spirit.

People ***Forever Three in One.***

Celebrant Be glorified at home.

People ***Be glorified in church.***

Celebrant Be glorified in Texas.

People ***Be glorified in the United States.***

Celebrant Be glorified on earth.

People ***Be glorified in heaven.***

Celebrant Glory to the Father.

People ***Glory to the Son.***

Celebrant Glory to the Spirit.

People ***Forever Three in One.***

Celebrant Alleluia! *People* ***Amen.***

The Collect for Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people, that bringing forth in abundance the fruit of good works, they may be abundantly rewarded when our Savior Jesus Christ comes to restore all things; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The First Reading, Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18. Zephaniah prophesies that there will be consequences to the people's sin. Persistent disobedience will not be disregarded. A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah:

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their

hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’ ¹³ Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.” ¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷ I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. (ESV)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God.***

Psalm 90:1-12

Let us read this responsively by half verse.

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
 from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were made,
 *
 you are God from everlasting, and world without end.
- 3 You turn man back to the dust; *
 you say, “Return, O children of men.”
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, *
 even as a day that is past.
- 5 You scatter them as a night-watch that comes quickly to an end; *
 they are even as a dream and fade away.
- 6 They are like the grass, which in the morning is green, *
 but in the evening is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure *
 and are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
- 8 You have set our misdeeds before you, *
 and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 For when you are angry, all our days are gone; *
 we bring our years to an end, as a tale that is told.
- 10 The days of our life are seventy years, and though some be so strong that they
 come to eighty years, *
 ***yet is their span but labor and sorrow; so soon it passes away, and we
 are gone.***

- 11 But who regards the power of your wrath, *
and who considers the fierceness of your anger?
- 12 So teach us to number our days, *
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God.***

The Second Reading, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10. The Thessalonians, and we ourselves, are called to live according to God’s perspective of creation rather than the temptation to the sleepiness of this world. A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (ESV)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Alleluia! Praise be to God.***

Sequence Song, “Ancient Words”

Lynn De Shazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. (2x)

Celebrant We stand to hear the good news of our salvation, as it is written in the Gospel according to St. Matthew chapter 25 beginning to read at verse 14.

The Gospel, Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus said ¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he

who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (ESV)

Celebrant This is the Gospel of Christ.

People ***Alleluia! Praise be to Christ our Savior.***

Sequence Song, "Ancient Words"

Lynn DeShazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. O let the ancient words impart.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Thebeau

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We stand together with Christians throughout the centuries, and throughout the world today, to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All ***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.***

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer Intercessions

Celebrant Almighty God, Your Son Jesus Christ has promised that You will hear us when we ask in faith: Lord, receive the prayers we offer to You.

Psalmist We pray Lord that You guide and govern Your holy church and that You fill it with love and truth; grant it that unity, which is Your will, binding it together with Your Spirit.

All ***That we all may be one in Christ.***

Psalmist Grant that every member of this parish may truly and humbly serve You; Lord help us to be a home for the lost, a shelter for the homeless, a beacon that shines from the top of this hill. Let that beacon not only shine over New Braunfels but Texas and the world.

All ***That Your Name may be glorified by everyone.***

Psalmist We pray for those who suffer from hunger, illness, loneliness, imprisonment, loss of loved ones, loss of jobs. We lift up to You those You have placed on our hearts individually.

All ***Merciful God, hear our prayer.***

Psalmist We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons; especially Foley, our Archbishop; and Clark, our Bishop; fill them with Your Spirit, and may they faithfully preach the Gospel and administer Your holy sacraments.

All ***That they may be faithful ministers of Your word and sacraments.***

Psalmist We pray for all who govern and exercise authority in the nations of the world.

All ***That there may be peace and justice among all.***

Psalmist For the nations of the world that they may peacefully co-exist, and that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. Strengthen and protect those serving and defending our nation at home and abroad.

All ***Bind them together, O Lord.***

Psalmist We pray for the persecuted church that the believers will sense God's presence; that they feel connected to the greater Body of Christ; and that they will be comforted by God if their family members are killed, injured or imprisoned for their witness.

All ***Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Strengthen your Church for her witness and work in the world. Today we lift up Trinity Anglican Church, Lafayette, LA. We ask your anointing upon Archbishop Lamido, Kaduna, Nigeria; and the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans around the world. We especially pray that you would empower our sister parish, Christ Church Jerusalem, as an instrument for your peace in Jerusalem, Israel, and the Middle East.

All ***Strengthen Your people, O Lord.***

Psalmist For the little children and babies: born and unborn, that their tender lives may be protected and their rights guarded.

All ***Protect them, O Lord.***

Psalmist We praise You and thank You for Your bountiful blessings. We know it is You who continues to provide for the growth of this City on a Hill. We pray for the continual support and commitment of this parish family who call this their church home.

All ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Psalmist Almighty and immortal God, giver of life and health: We implore in your mercy to stop the spread of COVID-19; healing for all infected by the virus, that by your blessing upon them and upon those who minister to them with your healing gifts, they may be restored to health of body and mind, according to your gracious will, and may give thanks to you in your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Celebrant Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Prayer of Penitence

Celebrant Hear the words of challenge and comfort our Savior Christ says to all who follow Him. If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. *(Luke 9:23-24)*

Come to Me all of you who are tired of carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest. *(Matthew 11:28)*

So, all of you who repent of your sins, who love your neighbors and intend to lead a new life, following the way of Jesus, come with faith and take this holy sacrament to strengthen you. Let us reverently confess our sins to Almighty God.

All ***Almighty God, creator of all, You marvelously made us in Your image; but we have corrupted ourselves and damaged Your likeness by rejecting Your love and hurting our neighbors. We have done wrong and neglected to do right. We are sincerely sorry and heartily repent of our sins. Cleanse us and forgive us by the sacrifice of Your Son; remake us and lead us by Your Spirit, the Comforter. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Celebrant Almighty God, whose steadfast love is as great as the heavens are high above the earth, remove your sins from you as far as the east is from the west, strengthen your life in His kingdom and keep you upright to the last day; through Jesus Christ our merciful High Priest. *Amen.*

All ***Thank you Father, for forgiveness; we come to Your table as Your children, not presuming but assured, not trusting ourselves but Your Word; we hunger and thirst for righteousness, and ask for our hearts to be satisfied with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Offertory

Offertory Song, “Sing of the Lord’s Goodness”

Ernest Sands

Sing of the Lord’s goodness Father of all wisdom. Come to Him and bless His Name. Mercy He has shown us His love is forever. Faithful to the end of days.

Chorus Come then all you nations sing of the Lord’s goodness. Melodies of praise and thanks to God. Ring out the Lord’s glory praise Him with your music. Worship Him and bless His Name.

Power He has wielded honor is His garment. Risen from the snares of death. His Word He has spoken one bread He has broken. New life He now gives to all.
(Chorus)

Courage in our darkness comfort in our sorrow. Spirit of our God most high. Solace for the weary pardon for the sinner. Splendor of the living God. *(Chorus)*

Praise Him with your singing praise Him with the trumpet. Praise God with the lute and harp. Praise Him with the cymbals praise Him with your dancing. Praise God till the end of days. *(Chorus)*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrant All things come from you O Lord.

People ***And of your own have we given you.***

Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant Is the Father with us?

People ***He is.***

Celebrant Is Christ among us?

People ***He is.***

Celebrant Is the Spirit here?

People ***He is.***

Celebrant This is our God.

People ***Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.***

Celebrant We are His people.

People ***We are redeemed.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give Him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant It is right and our delight to give You thanks and praise, great Father, living God, supreme over the world. Creator, Provider, Savior and Giver. From a wandering nomad You created Your family; for a burdened people You raised up a leader; for a confused nation You chose a king; for a rebellious crowd You sent Your prophets.

In these last days You have sent us Your Son, Your perfect image, bringing Your kingdom, revealing Your will, dying, rising, reigning, remaking Your people for Yourself. Through Him You have poured out Your Holy Spirit, filling us with light and life.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord: For He is Your living Word from before time and for all ages; by Him you created all things, and by Him You make all things new.

Therefore with angels, archangels, faithful ancestors and all in heaven, we proclaim Your great and glorious name, forever praising You and singing:

“Sanctus”

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. (2x)

Men sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

Ladies sing: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (2x)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

People remain standing

Celebrant Almighty God, owner of all things, we thank You for giving up Your Son to die on the cross for us who owe You everything. Pour Your refreshing Spirit on us as we remember Him in the way He commanded, through these gifts of Your creation.

On the same night that He was betrayed He took bread and gave You thanks; He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, ‘Take, eat, this is My body which is given for You; Do this in remembrance of Me’.

People ***Amen. His body was broken for us.***

Celebrant In the same way, after supper He took the cup and gave You thanks; He gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you, this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

People ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant We are brothers and sisters through His blood.

People ***We have died together, we will rise together,
we will live together.***

Therefore, heavenly Father, hear us as we celebrate this covenant with joy, and await the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He died in our place, making a full atonement for the sins of the whole world, the perfect sacrifice, once and for all.

You accepted His offering by raising Him from death, and granting Him great honor at Your right hand on high.

People ***Amen. Jesus is Lord.***

Celebrant This is the feast of victory!

People ***The Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!***

The Communion

Celebrant *As our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:*

All ***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.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People ***Though we are many we are one body, for we all share one bread.***

Celebrant The cup of blessing which we bless,

People ***is a sharing in the blood of Christ.***

Celebrant Draw near with faith and receive.

People ***Christ is the host and we are His guests.***

Celebrant Christ is alive for ever.

People ***We are because He is.***

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, to preserve your body and soul unto eternal life. Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts, by faith, and with thanksgiving.

“O Come To the Altar”

Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, Mack Brock

Are you hurting and broken within overwhelmed by the weight of your sin, Jesus is calling. Have you come to the end of yourself? Do you thirst for a drink from the well, Jesus is calling.

Chorus O come to the altar, The Father’s arms are open wide. Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes. Come today there’s no reason to wait, Jesus is calling. Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy. From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling. (*Chorus x2*)

Communion Songs

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Chorus My chains are gone; I’ve been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. (*Chorus 2x*)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forebear to shine. But God who called me here below will be forever mine; will be forever mine, You are forever mine.

“Revelation Song”

Jennie Lee Riddle

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, holy, holy is He. Sing a new song to Him who sits on Heaven's Mercy Seat. (x2)

Chorus Holy, Holy, Holy is The Lord, God Almighty. Who was and is and is to come. With all creation I sing, praise to The King of Kings, You are my everything, and I will adore You.

Clothed in rainbows, of living color; flashes of lightening, rolls of thunder. Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be, to You, the only wise King. (*Chorus*)

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder at the mention of Your Name; Jesus, Your Name is power, breath and living water; such a marvelous mystery. (*Chorus*)

“God So Loved”

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

Come all you weary come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry. Drink of the water come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners come find His mercy. Come to the table He will satisfy. Taste of His goodness find what you're looking for.

Chorus 1 For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Verse 3 Bring all your failures bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

Chorus 2 For God so loved the world that He gave us. His one and only Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever. The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well I'm walking in freedom. For God so loved God so loved the world.

Bridge Praise God praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him praise Him for the wonders of His love. (x2) (*Chorus 2, Verse 3*)

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty God, eternal Father, we have sat at Your feet, learned from Your word, and eaten from Your table. We give You thanks and praise for accepting us into Your family. Send us out with Your blessing, to live and to witness for You in the power of Your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, the First Born from the dead. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn, “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

James Montgomery, William Henry Monk

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son. Hail in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun. He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free; to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong; to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong. To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light; whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth. Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in His path to birth. Before Him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end. The tide of time shall never His covenant remove. His Name shall stand forever, that Name to us is love.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Words of dismissal.

All ***Praise be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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