



Hope in the Darkness

“Consider the word and understand the vision.”

(Daniel 9:23)

God Calls us to Worship

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! *(Ps 47.5-7)***

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Psalm 1

How blessed the one who does not walk
Where wicked men would guide his feet,
Who does not stand in sinners' paths
Or sit upon the scorners' seat.

The law of God is his delight,
His meditation day and night.

He prospers like a tree, which has
Been planted by a flowing stream,
And in its season yields its fruit;

Its leaves are always fresh and green.
In every act and every word
He knows the blessing of the LORD.

Not so the wicked: they are like
The chaff the wind will blow away.
They will not in the judgment stand,
Nor sinners with the righteous stay.
God knows the way the righteous go;
The wicked's way he'll overthrow.

We Confess and Are Assured

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."* (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins against
God, and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.
Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!
For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.**

**Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.
Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.
Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.
For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)**

Assurance of Pardon

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." (Mic 7:18-19)

Psalm 33

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.

**Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten
strings! Sing to him a new song; play
skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.**

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

**The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great
strength. The war horse is a false hope for
salvation, and by its great might it cannot
rescue.**

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

**Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help
and our shield. For our heart is glad in
him, because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon
us, even as we hope in you.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be forever, age after age.**

Amen!

God Speaks to us Through His Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:1-13, "Jerusalem will be restored"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading: Daniel 9:1-27

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Hope in the Darkness (Mark Payne)

We Respond to God's Word

The Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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.
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

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. "*Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce.*" (Pro 3:9)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.

Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your dear Son,
Jesus Christ.**

**Through him, we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Amen.

Come People of the Risen King

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.

For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all'.

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We Are Blessed and Sent Out to the World

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,
Amen.**

Sermon notes

God's Ear is Ready (v. 20-23)

God's Word is Certain (v. 24-27)

After 70 years of captivity and exile:

- First stage of 7 sevens (v. 25a)
- Second stage of 62 sevens (v. 25b-26)
- Final stage of 1 seven (v. 27)

All desolation will end, at the right time!

