



Subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven III: Tribulation

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matt 5:16)*

Call to Worship

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the victory and the majesty,
for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. *(1 Chr 29:11)*

**Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.** *(1 Chr 29:11)*

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 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts to me.
My heart cries out and even faints,
the courts of God to see.
The sparrow finds a place to nest,
beside your throne of grace.
Oh how I long to find my rest,
and dwell with you always.

A pilgrim now for all my days,
my gaze is set above.
The desert blooms with autumn rains,
You bless the ones you love.

Your people go
from strength to strength,
until we see your face.
Your eyes are turned to us in love,
You hear us when we pray.

I'd rather live for just one day
and gaze upon my Lord.
Than spend a lifetime far away
from where your praise is heard.
There's no good thing you will withhold,
from those who follow you,
O Lord my sun and mighty shield
my soul will trust in you.

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Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

"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.**

God's word tells us:

*"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."* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore 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 judgement.
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.
O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise.
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

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:1-2)

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness
to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
and gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness,
and clothed me with His light,
And wrote His law of righteousness
with power upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
to Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses
with strength and causes fears to fly;

Whose every promise is enough
for every step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
to Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all,
to love and follow Him.

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God's Word

James 1:12-27, "Hearing and Doing the Word", p. 1011

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Psalm 46, "God is our Fortress!"

God is our refuge and strength, a very
present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear—though the
earth gives way, though the mountains
be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its
swelling.**

There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God, the holy habitation
of the Most High. God is in the midst of
her; she shall not be moved; God will
help her when morning dawns.

**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God
of Jacob is our fortress.**

Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the
earth. He makes wars cease to the end of
the earth; he breaks the bow and
shatters the spear; he burns the chariots
with fire.

**"Be still, and know that I am God. I
will be exalted among the nations, I
will be exalted in the earth!" The LORD
of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is
our fortress.**

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!**

Second Reading: Matt 5:1-16, p. 809

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven III: Tribulation (Alan Steele)

Amazing Grace

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.

God's grace first taught my heart to fear,
His grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe this far
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
My shield and great reward is he
As long as life endures.

And when this mortal life is past
And earthly days shall cease,
I shall possess with Christ at last
Eternal joy and peace.

The earth will soon dissolve like snow,
The sun no longer shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

*John Newton (1779)
Eph 2:4-8*

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power
of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day
he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy
Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.**

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.

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 and we will all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, we offer you eternal praise and thanks that you have so blessed us poor sinners, that we would be drawn into the Communion of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whom you have delivered to death for us, and whom you have given us as the food and drink of life eternal. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, and to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory, Amen.

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." (Prov 3:9)

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

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to Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
and gave me life again.
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness,
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And wrote His law of righteousness
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My heart is filled with thankfulness
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My heart is filled with thankfulness
to Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
is given by the King.
So I will give my life, my all,
to love and follow Him.

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Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notes & Notices

The Gospel of Matthew

- 1:1 - 4:16 The Person of Jesus, the Christ
- 4:17 - 16:20 The Proclamation and Ministry of Jesus (Galilee)
- 16:21 - 25:46 The Proclamation and Ministry of Jesus (Judea)
- 26:1 - 28:20 The Passion, Resurrection & Commission of Jesus

Please diarise and pray for the following:

<i>The Coming Week...</i>		
Mon 11th Dec	Fellowship Group	Alan Finch
Wed 13th Dec	Fellowship Group	Mark Payne
Thu 19th Dec	Prayer Meeting (Online)	7:15pm
Sun 17th Dec	Lord's Day Worship (Matt 5:17-20)	10am
Sun 17th Dec	Carol Service	5pm