

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee. Amen.

Matthew 25:1–13 *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

In the Name of Jesus.

For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Jesus is the Lord, and the Lord does not change. So, ‘Watch!’ and ‘Encourage one another!’ IS another, advancing, moving, rising call which started with John and blossomed in Him, ‘Repent! Trust the Good News of God become time, become MAN; God fully with you in this repentance thing! And He will inaugurate a government and kingdom, a TYRANNY to the tyrants and soothing

balm to souls distressed!’

He does not change from His advancing and growing, His work of love, His sowing hope and His chasing around our restless feet and placing UNDER them solid ground on which to address God, SCHOOL Heaven and catechize the Holy Spirit to exhaustion: ‘WATCH the way those who hate me OWN my prayers and MY love and MY eternal HOPES! And you, poor, slow-learning God, may learn how to treat me!’

My dear ones, nothing of the LORD is like this world: bait-and-switch, soothing with false lies, flattery. As the Titanic is going down, it is not hope, it is not encouragement, it is not love to cry out: ‘Our feet are getting wet! The captain of THIS ship must be giving us a nice bath and have some new socks ready to hand out!’

When your cruise ship is going down, you are going down; its captain has failed you; or worse, deceived you in the worst possible way: ‘THIS ship cannot be sunk!’

Lifeboats—that’s where you head when your socks get soaked on the unsinkable ship of state: this THIS in which we are held hostage.

‘Do not fear the one who can kill the body. No,no! Have fear. But of your God! For there is a day coming soon that does NOT promise another. And there is NO turning back time: ‘Well, let’s say I DIDN’T sell my soul to this world!’ Too late.

Our lords and masters, of our dear, old USA most of all: they CANNOT—they say—be guilty of sin and deserving of death. Because they ‘Mean well!’ Check with Moses what God thinks of your good intentions. Check with the Lord of sinners to see how far you get with Him denying that your heart is evil.

Happy Day! The day He rose! The One Who was Crucified: such a King and Lord! Who then sang of HIS birthday present: ALL authority in heaven and even here. Given Him; and HIS to give! To stalwarts: like...Peter. Ha ha! So it MUST be solid if even PETER cannot fail to govern for the Lord!

Or your poor, miserable pastor.

When my phone screams at me and your kin tell me to say some things over your box, my calling is to encourage the saints and warn all men. NOW is the time! NOW is the day of salvation!

Your past wrongs can ONLY be mourned, regretted, run from—and then, overcome. There IS no ‘exchange’ or ‘payment’ that can un-ring a bell, or un-hurt your God you hurt daily and much; or un-wound those who looked to YOU for a happy sailing in this world and found instead you complicit in this world’s hatred.

But now, you are called FROM resignation to the news cycle TO resignation TO...YOUR...BAPTISM! The PLEDGE from Mary’s Boy Whom NO ONE wanted to rule when He was here: ‘I am in charge. But not only in charge of heaven and earth. I am in charge of them, heaven and earth, death, hell and the grave: for you! You-who? You sick who need a physician; you sinners who need a bracing call that SIN does not own you as it own the gods, lords and masters of this place. And I’ll prove it to you as best I can!’

Your Lord has proven you that YOU are ready for the last ringing call; when YOUR box springs open YOU will rise and enter into the happiness of your Creator—the One Who created ‘THIS,’ this ‘THIS’ that ALL we can do is ruin. Oh! And He’s going to make this ‘THIS’ something new too. And He’s not going to spoil it by telling us anything about the joys that await you! Other than that it is most DEBINITELY...NOT a continuation of ANY campaign promises, or governmental hatred, or threats of

the abortion lobby.

When your Lord appears, you will never fear again. Not what YOU can inflict on others; nor what others wish to inflict on you and your Lord.

And I can prove it beyond all doubt!

In just seconds, your poor, miserable slave up here intends to hand to you the Body of Christ to eat and the Blood of Christ to drink: so that LOVE is your goal today, NOT revenge! So that spreading HOPE is your calling today, NOT demanding explanations from anyone—and, dear Heaven, PLEASE...STOP...explaining yourself!

Christ gives you His Body to eat and His Blood to drink: so that YOU—right here, right you, you now and forever and spilling OVER more than you need here and now—YOU have more forgiveness than what you need forgiveness for!

My second proof of YOUR readiness for the Last Day waits outside this place. You have comforted your fellow wise wedding maidens here. But there are others who are just as underserving of the Lord and His gifts as you and I are. And your Lord is just bouncy today in full expectation

that YOU will make rise in the next man love instead of hatred, hope instead of dread resignation, and faith in the Gospel, instead of demands and explanations in the Name of Jesus.