

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 21st June 2020

Before we join together: to help us prepare sing a hymn & a song

- (1) "Who has held the oceans in his hands" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gqrl3Lkf58>
- (2) "Crown him with many crowns" - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuMh_ept-Js

At 10.45am: Welcome

Scriptural call to worship, and prayer for God's presence and blessing

We listen to the prophet Daniel describe the rule of the Lord Jesus (Daniel 7:13-14)

"... behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.
And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one shall not be destroyed."

We read together:

Almighty God,
to whom our hearts are open,
our desires are known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the gracious power of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You
and worthily magnify Your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: I once was lost in darkest night - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0vfz5lr37g>

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

2. But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

3. Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
Oh Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

*Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 15

Our psalm reading today humbles us, encourages us to seek forgiveness, and moves us to praise the Lord Jesus, who alone is righteous and who gives to his people a righteousness that we do not deserve.

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

Together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Leader: prays in thanksgiving for Christ's death and resurrection, and asks for the Lord to help us know deeply the joy of forgiveness.

Declaring our faith in Christ our King (from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 31)

Leader:

Why is he called *Christ*, that is, Anointed?

We declare together:

Because he has been ordained by God the Father,
and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be

our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us
the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption;
our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body has redeemed us,
and who continually intercedes for us before the Father;
and our eternal King, who governs us by his Word and Spirit,
and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.

Prayers of intercession

Bible reading and Sermon – Matthew 24:3–35

Hymn: Jesus is Lord – <https://www.stuarttownend.co.uk/song/jesus-is-lord/>

Jesus is Lord the cry that echoes through creation,
resplendent power, eternal Word, our rock.
The Son of God, the King whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come to taste this living bread.

2. Jesus is Lord whose word sustains the stars & planets,
Yet in His wisdom laid aside His crown.
Jesus the Man, who washed our feet,
who bore our suffering,
Became a curse to bring salvation's plan.

3. Jesus is Lord, the tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death could crush this King of love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're forgiven,
And we can run into the arms of God.

4. Jesus is Lord a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
As He returns, and every knee bows low.
Then every eye and every heart will see His glory,
The Judge of all will take His children home.

A prayer for God's blessing – from Psalm 67:1-3

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—
so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.
May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!

Matthew 24:3-35 – sermon outline

Introduction

Why? Trust Jesus' words... don't panic

When? "this generation" (23:36, 24:34)

What? The disciples' puzzle (v3): The temple's end and Jesus' "Parousia"?

What? Our puzzle (vv29-31): The end of the world... in "this generation"?

Jesus' answer:

- 24:4-35 = events leading to the destruction of the temple (clear time-frame)
- 24:36 – 25:46 = the end of the age and Jesus' Parousia (no time frame... be ready!)

1. Life before the End – 24:4-14

There will be false Messiahs... wars... & natural disasters

... but watch out! It's not the Judgment Day!

There will be persecution

... and the gospel will be preached to the nations

"whole world" = *oikumene* (see Acts 11:28, 19:27, Colossians 1:6, 23)

2. The beginning of Jerusalem's end – 24:15-28

The siege and the "abomination of desolation"

Daniel 9:27

Unprecedented suffering... but not the "Parousia" / End of the world

3. The End of the Temple and the triumph of Jesus – 24:29-35

= how the prophets describe God removing kings & empires
e.g. Babylon, Isaiah 13 →

The Son of Man enthroned as judge –
See Daniel 7:13-14

Isaiah 13:1,6,10,17, "The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw... Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!... For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light... Behold, I am stirring up the Medes against them..."