

Hell entangles me

Since my entrance into seminary I have given much thought and prayer to the apparent plight of the world and the church. What is it that has made so many full of despair, listless in hopelessness and unable to find their bearings? From the beginning I knew it was a lack of community, the loss of a common heritage, belief system and an atomized Christianity. As I prayed how to come to terms with these ills the Lord soon revealed to me they were symptoms of a greater decay, the root of national and even church despair is the demonic whirlwind of demoralization.

Demoralization looks much like depression, but unlike depression that that is an illness of the brain, demoralization is caused by outside forces. When people lose the belief in a common existential truth, when morality becomes relative to each individual and when people are ostracized and punished for holding the value of faith and tradition, demoralization quickly follows. It is nothing less than losing a shared compass that guides us as a people a nation or a church.

It is easy to see this in a world that has become “woke” to genetic racism, left and right politics and character assassination based on a statement of belief. We become demoralized when everything we held as true is taken away and we are deemed oppressors and racists because of the color of our skin. The goal of the Enlightenment, which was to free humanity from God and tradition, has indeed reaped its whirlwind and we can but look around and see the effects of this movement in our world and church. With no shared beliefs we lose our connections to one another and slowly succumb to helplessness, despair and loss of hope.

Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica is written to just such people. The hopelessness that has arisen from persecution without and from within has caused them to despair, that is become demoralized. Paul's call is to remember and hold on to their faith in Christ that unites them. Together in common truth they are not alone but through God's grace are enabled to persevere through this trying time. They must stick together and dare to risk themselves for the faith Christ has placed in them. Like the Thessalonians together we are not alone and the demoralization of the world can have no sway.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



“hope for the demoralized”

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran

October 25, 2020

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran

Parish Office ~ 957-3377 Pastor ~ 207-3679

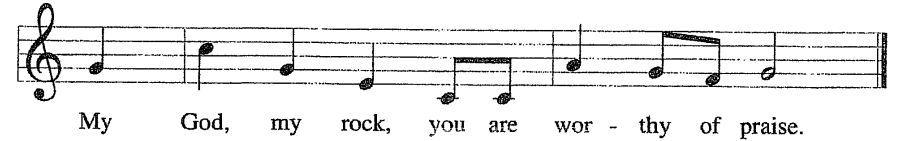
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Pastor / Celebrant	Rev. Troy A. Mulvaine
Pastor in Residence	Rev. Allan Greip
Assisting Minister	Deacon Lily Lapp
Pastoral Musician	Shelly Mulvaine

LBW – *Green Hymnal* **WOV** – *Blue Hymnal*

MC - *Creation Setting*



¹I love you, O LORD my strength,*
O LORD my stronghold, my crag, and my haven.
²**My God, my rock in whom I put my trust,*
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge: You are worthy of praise. R**
³I will call upon the LORD,*
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.
⁴**The breakers of death rolled over me,*
and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.**
⁵The cords of hell entangled me,*
and the snares of death were set for me.
⁶**I called upon the LORD in my distress*
and cried out to my God for help. R**
⁷He heard my voice from his heavenly dwelling,*
my cry of anguish came to his ears.
¹⁷**He reached down from on high and grasped me;*
he drew me out of great waters.**
¹⁸He delivered me from my strong enemies and from those who hated me,*
for they were too mighty for me.
¹⁹**They confronted me in the day of my disaster,*
but the LORD was my support.**
²⁰He brought me out into an open place,*
he rescued me because he delighted in me. R

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran
Holy Eucharist October 25, 2020

NEXT WEEKS READINGS:

Solemnity of All Saints

Revelation 7:2-14, I John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

PLEDGE CARDS: Please place your pledge cards for 2021 in the offering basket, at the rear of the church, by Sunday, November 15th. You may also mail pledge cards to the church office.

THE BOOK OF THE DEAD: We will celebrate the Feast of All Saints on Sunday November 1st. The Book of the Dead is available on a stand in the rear of the church to enter loved ones who dies during this past church year. Bring photos to use during worship on November 1st.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS: Any member of the church currently enrolled in college education can request a scholarship from the church. A simple letter to the parish council requesting this gift is all that is needed. Funds are divided based on request and will be distributed before the end of the year.

Brief Order for Confession

Introductory Rites

Entrance Hymn.....*vs. 1-2*.....**LBW 270**

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie.....p.78 **LBW**

Prayer of the Day.....p.82 **LBW**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading.....Exodus 22:20-26

Psalm.....*back of bulletin*.....Psalm 18

Second Reading.....I Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel Acclamation.....p.83 **LBW**

Gospel.....Matthew 22:34-40

Homily

Hymn of the Day.....**LBW 551**

Concluding Rite

Apostles Creed.....p.85 LBW

Prayers of the Faithful

Sign of Peace

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Response.....p.86 LBW

Offertory Prayer.....p.87 LBW

Great Thanksgiving.....p.88 LBW

Sanctus.....p.89 LBW

Lord's Prayer.....p.91 LBW

Agnus Dei.....p.92 LBW

All Baptized Christians who believe that in the Eucharist the true Body and Blood of Christ are physically present are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Cantic.....p.92 LBW

Prayer

Blessing

Recessional Hymn.....vs. 3-4.....LBW 270

▣ *Sent to proclaim God's kingdom with power and to serve others with humility, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

▣ **Thanks be to God!**

“Almighty, ever living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may receive the grace you have promised to the faithful. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Church of the Apostles, Lutheran

PLEDGE CARD

MY PLEDGE for the 2021 year is \$ _____

Per week-----per month-----per year-----

Please return this card in the collection plate at service.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____