





OPENING HYMN - Ch 611 Raise Up, O Saints of God!

1.

Rise up, O saints of God!

Have done with lesser things.

give heart and mind and soul and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O saints of God!

The kingdom tarries long.
bring in the day of righteousness, and end the night of wrong.

Rise up, O saints of God!

The church for you doth wait,
with strength unequal to the task;
rise up, and make it great.

Lift high the cross of Christ; tread where Christ's feet have trod; come sisters, brothers in the faith, rise up, O saints of God.





SCRIPTURE READING 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12

Read by Will Kooi

Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING-Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Responsive Psalm - Psalms 31:1-7

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.



SERMON

Are you climbing up, or looking down?



RESPONSIVE HYMN-CH 661 What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?
What does the Lord require of you?
Do justice, love mercy,
walk humbly with your God;
Do justice, love mercy,
walk humbly with your God.



DOXOLOGY - CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!



Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.

Amen



CLOSING HYMN - CH 613 Stand up, Stand up for Jesus

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high his royal banner, It must not suffer loss. From victory unto victory His army shall he lead, Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey, forth to the might conflict, in this his glorious day: "ye that are brave, now serve him" against unnumbered foes; let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Stand in his strength alone; The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the gospel armor, and watching unto prayer, where duty calls, or danger, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, The strife will not be long; This day the noise of battle, The next the victor's song. To those who overcometh A crown of life shall be; They with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING





POSTLUDE

VCC Choir & Tomasz Pietak

