

Church Together

A Church Is Strengthened In Every Good Way

1st February 2026



Welcome

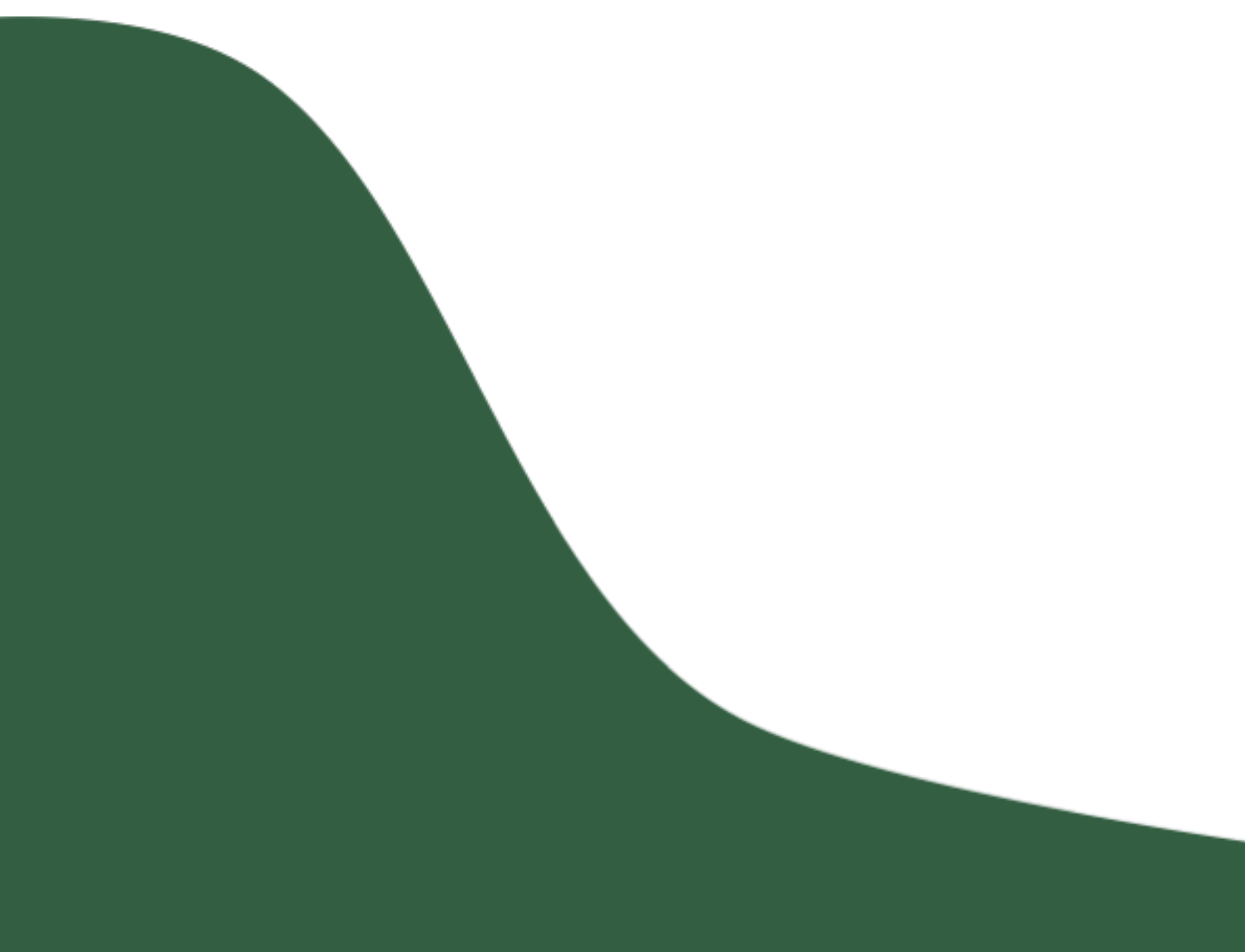
In today's Service we will be looking at: **2**

Thessalonians 2 v. 13 - 17

The theme for our service today is: **A Church Is Strengthened In Every Good Way**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Know That You Are Chosen, Called And Cared For By God!**



Call To Worship

Psalm 121 v. 1 - 8 NLT

I look to the mountains -

Does my help come from there?

My help comes from the Lord,

Who made the heavens and the earth!

He will not let you stumble and fall;

The one who watches over you will not sleep.

Indeed, he who watches over Israel

Never tires and never sleeps.

The Lord himself watches over you!

The Lord stands beside you as

Your protective shade.

The sun will not hurt you by day,

Nor the moon at night.

The Lord keeps you from all evil and preserves your life.

The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both

now and forever.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we thank you that we are able to come and meet together in your name today. As we gather we come as individuals, but also as a fellowship of believers together. We recognise that although we are all different, we are all bound together through your love that was shown to us by Jesus. Therefore, we thank you loving Lord that we can come together this morning to worship and offer our praise and thanks to you.

Be with us in our worship today Lord as we look at your word this morning, guide us we pray as we try and understand what your word has to say to us both as individuals and as a church. Lord with you all things are possible, therefore, help us to live our lives full of your love and wisdom. Encourage us we pray to work together for your kingdom in and through your name we pray.

Amen

Song Suggestion

To God Be The Glory



Bible Reading

2 Thessalonians 2 v. 13 – 17 NIV

Stand Firm

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 14 He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Church Together

Thought

A young church is not without problems as it grows. As groups get bigger, the organisation needs to be more efficient. A small house group, for example, gets along very nicely arranging its programme over a cup of tea at one of the usual weekly meetings. However, the larger church needs, at the very least, secretarial help, a diary and a filing system!

It is not unspiritual to be an efficient administrator! When we talk of spiritual gifts, we are apt to think of healing, prophecy and speaking in tongues, but Paul himself lists the gift of administration, along with encouragement, as equally important, as seen in **1 Corinthians 12 v. 28**. The mixture of Greek and Jewish Christians in Jerusalem had led to bad feeling and even a suspicion of racism among the widows, who relied on the practical help given to them by the church. This potential trouble spot is promptly addressed by the Apostles, who appointed seven men to organise the distribution of food.

It is significant that even for this administrative job, the men chosen were to be 'full of the Spirit and wisdom' as we read in **Acts 6 v. 3** and the Apostles laid hands on them, as recorded in **Acts 6 v. 6**, commissioning them for their service. We are all called to serve God in some way, and he has given each one of us gifts to enable us to do this. Paul, as he writes to the Thessalonian church, prays for them to be strengthened and encouraged so that they

may both spread the Good News and serve God in whichever way he has called them, as we see from **2**

Thessalonians 2 v. 16, 17.

The work God has called each one of us to do may not be very 'up-front'. The organisation of food for Christian widows in the Jerusalem church does not seem very important but the Apostles, as they commissioned these seven men, recognised that all work for God is important, whether it is church -based or out in the community.

Preaching, going out as a missionary to another continent and working as an evangelist all have a high profile, and are what many think of as 'Christian service'. Working with children may sometimes seem like a thankless task, but is certainly equally, if not more, important. Making the coffee after services, lending a sympathetic ear to someone in trouble or caring for an elderly neighbour are both valid forms of service in God's eyes. Maybe he has called you to be a Christian presence in your place of work, college or neighbourhood. Any everyday situation can be just as difficult a mission field as those in the developing or Arab worlds! Called to salvation, as seen in **2 Thessalonians 2 v. 13**, we have become part of God's family. Let us respond by serving each other wholeheartedly wherever we live and work.

2 Thessalonians 2 v. 13 - 17 shows that the power of God's servants lies in the fact that they are:

CHOSEN BY GOD (v. 13)

The New Testament poses something of a puzzle.

Sometimes it speaks as if God has already chosen those who will follow Christ in a way that predestines who will be saved. Sometimes it speaks as if the choice of whether or not to follow Christ is dependent on the free - will of each

man or woman. How can both be correct?

C.S. Lewis, reflecting on his conversion, struggled to bring together his sense of free will with his understanding of predestination: 'I chose, yet it did not really seem possible to do the opposite. It was the relentless pursuit by the mouse of the cat.'

The great danger lies in emphasising one to the exclusion of the other, since both are there. It is an uneasy balancing act – but there are life situations which defy our logic. This is dealing with experience rather than explanation.

It may be intellectually perplexing to know that we are chosen by God, but it is emotionally satisfying. In the Bible predestination usually (**although not always**) has to do with our service rather than our salvation. One thing is certain – if a person is saved for eternity, it is by the grace, mercy, and the will of God; if a person is lost for eternity, it is because of refusing the offer of that grace, mercy, and the will of God.

It is always God who takes the initiative. Wherever God is choosing people there are always two factors at work: the trustworthy work of the Spirit, as seen in **2 Thessalonians 2 v. 13**, and the truthful word of the Scripture, reflected in **2 Thessalonians 2 v. 13, 15**.

CALLED BY GOD (v. 14)

It was great to be wanted when a team was being chosen in the playground at school. Most of us can remember the relief we felt when we were chosen for one team or the other. Or the embarrassment of the reverse. Think what it means to know that we are wanted by God for his team.

We are called to share 'in the glory of our Lord Jesus

Christ'. Glory has two threads in its meaning: the idea of fullness, weight, completeness, comprehensiveness; and the idea of brightness, radiance, splendour, light, brilliance. We are so often satisfied with much less than God wants to give to each one of us.

Thomas Chalmers heard the call of God when he was three years of age in Anstruther, Fife, Scotland. Campbell Morgan heard the call of God when he was seven years of age in Cardiff. Philips Brooks was a teacher when God called him. John McNeil was a railwayman when God called him. John Henry Jowett was a solicitor's apprentice when God called him. All these became great preachers.

'The common experience of all of them without exception,' says Dr George F Macleod, 'is that not one of them wished to preach. Moses, who lived by faith and endured as seeing him who is invisible, was prepared to do the whole bidding of God, except to speak. Isaiah, although he saw the whole glory of God, and the meaning of that glory for his day, yet begged to be excused from this one thing. Ezekiel pleaded that he might deliver his message in some other way.

Chrysostom shrank from it for years. Augustine turned in every direction before he plunged. Luther might not have preached at all but for his vow of obedience, and that he was directly ordered to do so, for all his pleadings. John Knox was pressed into the ministry. Frederick Robertson begged to be excused. Not one of them tired of quoting St Paul, protesting their unfitness to the end.' Yet when God chooses, calls, and cares there is nothing that the servant of God cannot do.

God has called us to be naturally supernatural in the power of his Spirit, and we have to be willing to be part of

that calling.

CARED FOR BY GOD (v. 16, 17)

Words to take joy in: **loved by God** – that makes us secure; **gave us** – that keeps us supplied; **encourage your hearts** – that gives us significance strengthen you – that provides our strength.

Back beyond Calvary with its shadows and anguish; back beyond Bethlehem with its cradle song; back beyond Sinai with its thunder – toned pronouncements of the law; back beyond Eden with its sinless symphony of physical beauty and moral purity; back beyond creation where the stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy – back, back, back to the infinite mind and heart of God is where the human story got its beginning. There and then the servant of God was given a place in God's eternal purpose!

God does these things; it is all by his grace. Grace is the sheer, undeserved generosity of the heart of God.

Song Suggestion

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous
Grace



But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- 1 Peter 2:9

Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

An Invitation to the Table:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

A prayer of Approach:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is 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, we pray. Amen.

As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the

same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 - 26

A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP

A Final Prayer of Acclamation:

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

Amen.

Song Suggestion

Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning



Prayers Of Intercession

Lord accept our lives just as we are, with our faults and failings and also with our talents and our strengths and use us for your service to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. We thank you Lord for all the many gifts and talents that we have received from you. Help us we pray in the mission of your church here at Salendine Nook, may we not be afraid to share the wonderful message of your salvation with all those we meet.

Loving Lord, we pray for the many varied churches here in Huddersfield and the surrounding areas. We pray that we may work together more closely to use the different skills that each church has in order that your Kingdom may grow here in this part of Yorkshire. Guide us Lord, help us to see your vision. Help us to build on all that you have given us down through many years and past generations and guide us so that we may move forward in your name. Help us to connect with the wider community of Salendine Nook and may we be positive in all that we seek to do in your name. Encourage us when the going seem to be hard and tough, help us to be positive in the mission that you have called us too.

Heavenly Father, we are mindful that there are many places and situations within our world that need our prayers at this time, bring them peace and strength and help us through our prayers to pray for them and to offer our support in any way that we can.

We also pray this day for all those who work in the community to keep us safe. We remember in prayer, the emergency services, doctors and nurses. For voluntary services and for all who work in whatever way to bring relief, support, care and comfort to those who need it. Help us Lord, to be a people who are outward looking. Help us to see your plan for our future, both here in this church and in our own lives. Encourage us to grow in love for you and for each other as we strive to worship you in new ways; help us to see ourselves as the family of God in this place. May our enthusiasm never wain, but give us a deep sense of your presence among us, we pray. Finally Lord, we give thanks for our families and our friends. We thank you Lord for those times of relaxation and fun that we can have with those who love us and care for us. Help us dear Lord, to have those times when we can build up good solid relationships with those close to us, in order that we might be strengthened and that we may be a blessing to others as well. All of these prayers we ask in your precious name.

Amen

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



We don't always
see it, but God
is caring for us
in more ways
than we know.

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Immortal Invisible, God Only
Wise



Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Amen