

Sunday, March 22, 2020
Grace Lutheran Church

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another. Merciful God,

Forgive us, for we have fallen short of your vision for humanity. We have put ourselves before others, ignored the vulnerable, and forgotten you altogether. We have missed the point of your kingdom. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, amen.

Children, your God has not forgotten you. Jesus knows your weakness and sees through your presence. You are made whole simply by seeking forgiveness. Receive the Lord's pardon and believe that it is true, by the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Call to Worship

Come and worship the God of love!

Let us love the Lord, our God!

With heart and soul, with mind and strength.

Let us love our neighbors, too!

In equal measure as ourselves.

Come and worship the God of love!

Opening Song Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Come, now is the time to worship

Come, now is the time to give your heart

Come, just as you are to worship

Come, just as you are before your God

Come

One day every tongue will confess You are God

One day every knee will bow

Still the greatest treasure remains for those

Who gladly choose you now

Greeting/Kyrie *from Holden Evening Prayer (sung)*

May God be with you all

And also with you

Let us sing our thanks to God

It is right to give god thanks and praise

Blessed are you, creator of the universe. From old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are a light to our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation. **Amen.**

Canticle of Praise***Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory******ELW #561***

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Prayer of the Day

O Lord, Your greatest command to love can also be most difficult. Give us the same heart as you have for the world and everything in it, that we might be the living presence of your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Word**Psalm 89:1-4**

1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. 2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. 3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: 4 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

Scripture Introduction

There are two commandments that stand above all of the others. Love God. Love others. Jesus invites us to look at the ways a poor widow modeled selfless love, by giving out of faith rather than out of abundance.

Focus Scripture **Mark 12:28-44**

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; 33 and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question. 35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? 36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'" 37 David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight. 38 As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." 41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Children's Time

Musical Offering **Rise Up, Rise Up**

V1. When you see the road ahead
 That you've been down before
 When you're halfway to nowhere
 And you can't pay the toll
 You're hanging onto mercy
 Withered on the vine
 With your feet on the ground,
 your head in the clouds
 And your heart on the line

V2. When you're told that day is over
 Long after the sun goes down
 And your mind it keeps on racing
 At the dreams that don't come 'round
 When you don't know how to surrender
 'Cause your whole life's been a fight
 When the dark holds you
 and you can't break through
 'Cause you haven't seen the light

Refrain Open up your eyes
 You've got to rise up, rise up
 When this life has got you down
 You've got to look up, look up
 When you search and nothing's found
 My eyes have seen the glory of the love
 that's here and now
 It's coming down
 So rise up now

Bridge Yeah rise up now
 Oh rise up now

 And all the lambs roar like lions
 And all the prisoners breaking their chains
 And all the poor find their treasure
 'Cause heaven is coming this way

 Rise up, rise up

Message

Rev. John Odegard

***Hymn of the Day**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Offering & Offertory Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

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;

and lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory

forever and ever, Amen.

Sending

Blessing

In the uncertain times, know that you belong to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW #674

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

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Dismissal

Go in peace, as the church, the body of Christ wherever you are. Through God's abundant love,
live and work to serve others. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude