

Sunday, July 27, 2025
9:00 am Service



Our Mission:
Connecting to One Another in the
Contagious Joy of Following Jesus

Theme of the Year:
Come Learn From Me

WORSHIP VERSE

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

~Romans 12:1-2

WORSHIP QUOTE

I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love.

~ *Henry Ward Beecher*

PRESERVICE THOUGHTS ON MERCY

Disciples learn paths of blessedness, seeking to be merciful as our Father in Heaven is merciful.

One area of mercy relates to offenses. Mercy is one of the most powerful gifts to share with someone who has hurt or offended you. It is both freeing and redemptive. It is also one of the most powerful and vindictive things you can do by withholding if you choose to do so. Too often disciples who claim to follow Jesus don't actually follow His teaching about being merciful. Jesus instructs His disciples to do so, warning that unless we are merciful, God will not be merciful to us. This beatitude acknowledges the blessing of being merciful. In this case, the bible describes a contrasting curse that comes with choosing an unmerciful attitude. Jesus Himself describes it in the parable of the unmerciful servant (see Matthew 18:21-35). Pray that you and those you love can be people of mercy.

PRESERVICE PRAYER

Father God, as I come to worship You this morning, I desire for my soul to be grateful at emotional, spiritual, intellectual, and physical levels. As You speak through Your Word and Spirit, let them inspire my whole person and life, leading my spirit in worship this day; may You be glorified in me and among all of Your people. Amen.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Trust In God”

Lake/Brown

Blessed assurance
Jesus is mine
He's been my fourth man in the fire
Time after time
Born of His Spirit
Washed in His blood
And what He did for me on Calvary
Is more than enough

Chorus

I trust in God

My Savior

The One who will never fail

He will never fail

Perfect submission
All is at rest
I know the author of tomorrow
Has ordered my steps
So this is my story
And this is my song
I'm praising my risen King and Savior
All the day long

Bridge

I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered
I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered
That's why I trust Him
That's why (I trust Him)

PSALM OF THE WEEK

Psalm 119:89-96

Your word, LORD, is eternal;
it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues through all generations;
you established the earth, and it endures.
Your laws endure to this day,
for all things serve you.
If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have preserved my life.
Save me, for I am yours;
I have sought out your precepts.
The wicked are waiting to destroy me,
but I will ponder your statutes.
To all perfection I see a limit,
but your commands are boundless.

“Lord Have Mercy”

Merkel

Jesus, I've forgotten the Words
that You have spoken;
Promises that burned within my heart
have now grown dim.
With a doubting heart
I follow the paths of earthly wisdom.
Forgive me for my unbelief; renew the fire again.

Chorus

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on me.

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy on me.

I have built an altar
where I worship things of man.
I have taken journeys
that have drawn me far from You.
Now I am returning
to Your mercies overflowing.
Pardon my transgressions;
help me love You again. *Chorus*

I have longed to know You
and Your tender mercies,
like a river of forgiveness
overflowing without end.
I bow my heart before You
in the goodness of Your presence,
Your grace forever shining
like a beacon in the night. *Chorus 2X*

“Turn Your Eyes”

Sovereign Grace Music

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embraced
There the Son of God gave His life for us
And our measureless debt was erased

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes
Jesus, our glory and our prize
We adore You, behold You, our Savior ever true
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You*

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone
For we carry His life in our veins *Chorus*

Turn your eyes to the heavens
Our King will return for His own
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

Chorus X2

Oh Jesus we turn our eyes to you.

WELCOME and SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! (*Psalm 118:24*)

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

INVOCATION

Pastor: We come in the name of the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. May we worship in spirit and in truth as
the Father seeks.**

OPENING SONG

"Who Am I"

Hall

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
would care to know my name,
would care to feel my hurt?
Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
would choose to light the way
for my ever wand'ring heart?

Pre-chorus

Not because of who I am,
but because of what You've done.
Not because of what I've done,
but because of who You are.

Chorus

*I am a flower quickly fading,
here today and gone tomorrow,
a wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind.
Still You hear me when I'm calling.
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
and You've told me who I am.
I am Yours. I am Yours.*

Instrumental

Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
would look on me with love
and watch me rise again?
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
would call out through the rain
and calm the storm in me?

Pre-chorus, Chorus,

Instrumental

Pre-chorus, Chorus

I am Yours.
Whom shall I fear; whom shall I fear?
'Cause I am Yours. I am Yours.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, He desires us to be "clothed" with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience – to live out the royal law of love as James calls it.

People: **Father, we all fall short of Your will in this area and in many others. We find our sinfulness exposed in our words and deeds, our attitudes and actions. You see as well what others don't, the thoughts of our minds and the evil desires**

that battle within us. Forgive us for these and all other sins in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! Our Lord Jesus Christ has paid for your sins by His personal sacrifice and forgiven your debt. In His mercy, He has freed you and looks for you to live graciously under that freedom. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may you use your freedom to honor God in all that you do.

People: Amen. Thank You God for Your mercy.

Pastor: My friends, rejoice with me that in Christ we are Father God's beloved children,

People: rescued, redeemed, and renewed.

Pastor: And precious in His sight.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Having received God's grace through forgiveness, let's also receive His grace to empower us for living godly lives to His glory in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Goodness of God"

Cash/Fielding/Johnson

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Pastor: Lord Jesus, help us hear Your call, "follow Me," in our hearts. Like Matthew, help us learn to follow You in all ways, even leaving a testimony to those around us of the blessing You are – the greatest blessing in our life. May we testify to the good news of knowing You.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN RELEASED TO JAM SESSION

CALL TO LISTEN *"Change My Heart, O God"* Espinosa

*Change my heart, O God, make it ever true;
Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.
You are the Potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.*

SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:8-13

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

DISCIPLESHIP POINT from Matthew 5:7

Reader: ***From the Discipleship Covenant***

Growth and setbacks along the path of

discipleship: As a disciple of Jesus, I should anticipate growth. I can also anticipate setbacks and disappointments, meaning I will need grace and forgiveness along the way from God, myself, and others. I envision the Holy Spirit making this happen in me, and so under His leadership, I commit to grow as a disciple in Christ using self-discipline and loving accountability from others.

DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER

Reader: Join me in praying:

People: Lord Jesus, I love it when I grow in You and Your Spirit leads me in paths of righteousness. When I make poor choices or fall short, remind me to repent and be gracious to myself as You are gracious to me. And when others disappoint me or fall short, remind me to be gracious and merciful to them as You are to me. I want to be an encourager, not a discourager. As the song says, *I want to be just like You;* Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP TESTIMONY

Reese Kessler

MESSAGE FROM JESUS' SERMON

Matthew 5:7

Pastor: God's Word from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

People: Holy Spirit, remind us of what Jesus taught.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: May we be hearers and doers of the Word.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Paul vonWerder

PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST and OFFERING

OFFERING SONG *"I Surrender All"* Weeden/van DeVenter

All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

Chorus

*I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

Chorus

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessings fall on me.

Chorus

APOSTLES' CREED

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**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: (after each petition) Lord, in Your mercy...

People: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever, Amen.**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
[*Psalms 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, and now we praise You for Jesus, Your only-begotten son, by whose sacrifice and authority we are welcome into Your presence. Accept our thanksgiving by our presence and participation in this holy sacrament.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Just As I Am"

Cottrell

Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee
O Lamb of God I come I come

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot
O Lamb of God I come I come

Chorus

*I come broken to be mended
I come wounded to be healed
I come desperate to be rescued
I come empty to be filled
I come guilty to be pardoned
By the blood of Christ the Lamb
And I'm welcomed with open arms praise God
Just as I am*

Just as I am I would be lost
But mercy and grace my freedom bought
And now to glory in Your cross
O Lamb of God I come I come
Just as I am

“O Come to the Altar”

Furtick/Brown/Joye

Are you hurting and broken within,
overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?
Jesus is calling.
Have you come to the end of yourself,
do you thirst for a drink from the well?
Jesus is calling.

Chorus

*O come to, the altar;
the Father's arms are open wide.
Forgiveness, was bought with
the precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes.
Come today there's no reason to wait.
Jesus is calling.
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy;
From the ashes a new life is born.
Jesus is calling. *Chorus 2X*

Bridge

Oh what a Savior, isn't He wonderful;
sing hallelujah, Christ is risen!
Bow down before Him,
for He is Lord of all;
sing hallelujah, Christ is risen! *Repeat, Chorus 2X*

Instrumental

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown,
tell the world of the treasure you found.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

HOPE PRAYER BOX(ES)

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST (taken from Scripture)

Pastor: Let's remind ourselves who we are in Christ Jesus:

- **Though we mourn, we will not let any present sufferings steal our hope in the Lord; in Christ, we wait eagerly and yet patiently for our full adoption as His child.**
- **We declare with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, and we believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead; and so in Christ, we are saved.**
- **In Christ, we have been shown mercy by God and will seek to let mercy triumph over judgment as we relate with others.**

BENEDICTION FOR THE WEEK

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"King of Heaven"

Baloche

Jesus, let Your kingdom come here;
Let Your will be done here in us;
Jesus, there is no one greater;
You alone are Savior; show the world Your love.

Chorus

*King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day,
King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, rise up; Who can stand against us;
You are strong to save, in Your mighty name,
King of heaven, come.*

We are children of Your mercy,
rescued for Your glory;
We cry Jesus, set our hearts towards You,
that ev'ry eye would see You lifted high.

Bridge
King of heaven, come;
King of heaven, come;
King of heaven, come;
Oh, King of heaven, come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- School Supply Drive for: Arbor Ridge, Union Park Middle and Hope Lutheran Preschool – supplies due back by Sunday, August 3.
- Family Fun Day, hosted by the church and preschool: Saturday, Aug 2 from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall.
- Blessing of the Backpacks and Preschool Teacher Installation: Sunday, Aug 10 during worship.

EXIT INVOCATION

Pastor: We are a discipleship-oriented and disciple-sending church. As disciples of Jesus sent into the world, let's follow in His path of loving and serving.

People: **In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; Amen!**

Rev. Paul vonWerder, Pastor
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