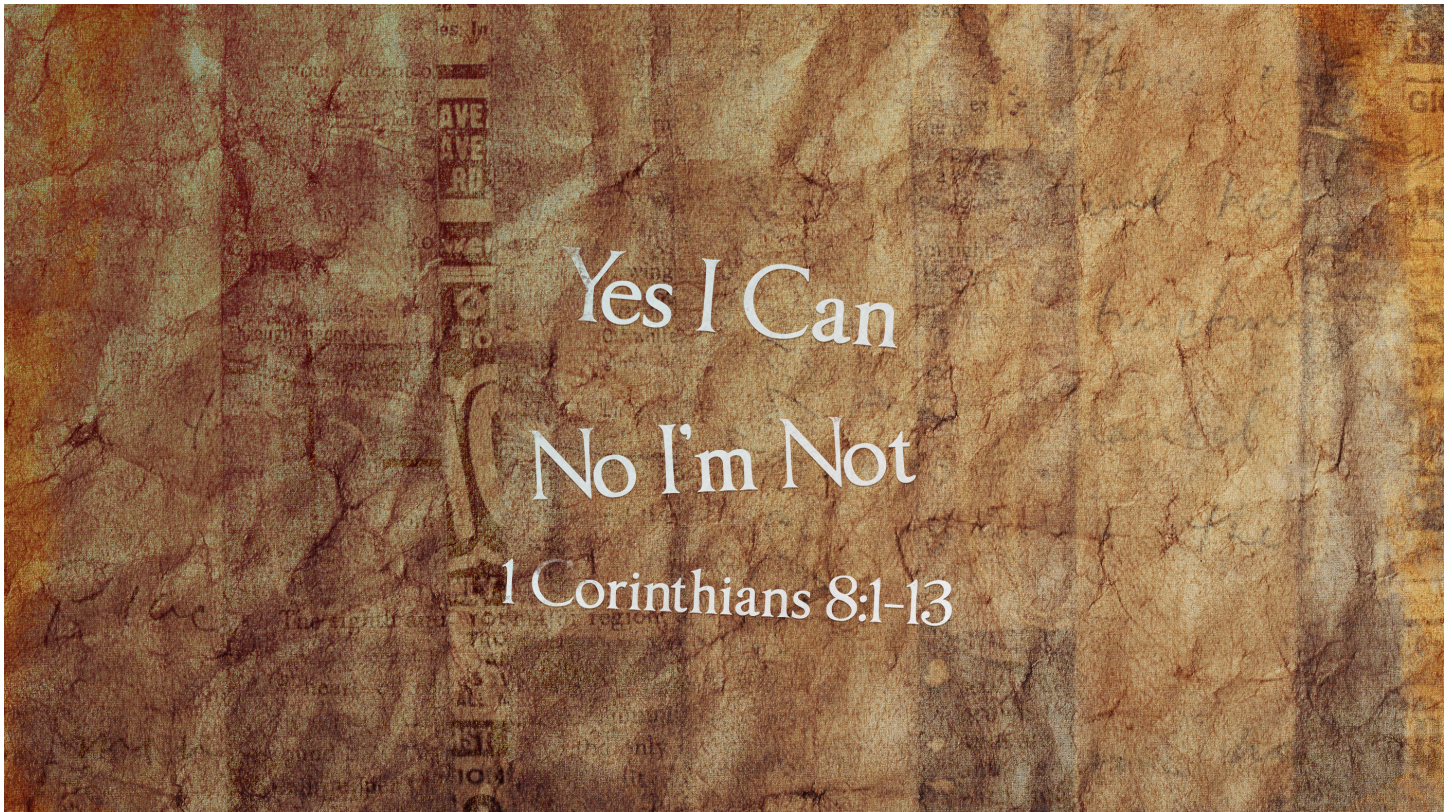


Sunday, January 28, 2024, 9:00am

Yes I Can, No I'm Not

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Do you lovingly say no to things that could lead someone to stumble?

Prelude

#842, Son of God, Eternal Savior

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**
- 2 As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.**
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.**
- 4 Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.**

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, alt.

Text: Public domain

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them,

and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.

C: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

P: Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

C: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity, I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Therefore let everyone who is Godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach Him.

C: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

All Glory be to God Alone (948)

1 All glory be to God alone, Forevermore the highest one,

Who did our sinful race befriend And grace and peace to us extend.

Among us may His gracious will All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

2 We praise You, God; Your name we bless And worship You in humbleness;

From day to day we glorify The everlasting God on high.

Of Your great glory do we sing, And to Your throne our thanks we bring.

3 Lord God, our King on heaven's throne, Our Father, the Almighty One.

O Lord, the sole-begotten One, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,

True God from all eternity, O Lamb of God, to You we flee.

4 You take the whole world's sin away; Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

You take the whole world's sin away; O Lord, receive our prayer this day.

From God's right hand Your mercy send, To all the world Your grace extend.

5 You only are the Holy One And over all are Lord alone. O Jesus Christ, we glorify You and the Spirit, Lord Most High; With Him You evermore shall be One in the Father's majesty.

Text: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001748

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Time

Change the World With Love

Choir

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to My words that he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Corinthians 8:1–13 [Sermon Text]

Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although

there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#845, Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;

Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.

**2 With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn; Let us with heart and mind
and soul Now love Him in return.**

**3 Forgive we now each other’s faults As we our faults confess, And let us love each
other well In Christian holiness.**

**4 Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease; Be God’s the glory
that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.**

**5 Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son; As members of His
body joined We are in Him made one.**

**6 For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.**

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97, alt.

Text: © 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001748

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, “What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” And at once His fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

#954, *We All Believe In One True God*

- 1 We all believe in one true God, Who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love Has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us; All we need His hand provides us;
Through all snares and perils leads us, Watching that no harm betide us.
He cares for us by day and night; All things are governed by His might.**
- 2 We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, Source of ev’ry grace and blessing;
Born of Mary, virgin mother, By the power of the Spirit, Word made flesh, our
elder brother; That the lost might life inherit, Was crucified for all our sin
And raised by God to life again.**
- 3 We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who, in highest heaven dwelling
With God the Father and the Son, Comforts us beyond all telling;
Who the Church, His own creation, Keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation Daily come through Jesus’ merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be In bliss with God eternally.**

Amen.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Text: Public domain

The Sermon *Yes I Can, No I’m Not*

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: Lord, in Your mercy C: hear our prayer

P: ...through Jesus, our Lord.

C: Amen. 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.

God's Benediction

#528, *Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing*

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;

'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.

His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race.

Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

6 See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.

His soul was once an off'ring made For ev'ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n

By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Text: Public domain

Postlude