

Sunday, March 17, 2024, 11:15am
It's All About The Company You Keep
Fifth Sunday in Lent



*It's Jesus, Peter, and me...and it's all about the company you keep.
Our goal in life is to be in God's good company, to be friends of God,
so that we find true life in God's good company through Jesus.*

Opening Praise Song

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

C: Amen.

P: What a priest we have in Jesus!

C: He is our source of eternal salvation.

P: He sympathizes with us in our weakness.

C: He offers prayers and supplications for us.

P: He serves us and sacrifices Himself for us.

C: What a priest we have in Jesus!

P: Though Jesus is our great High Priest, we have lived as if we didn't need Him, as though our sin was not deadly. Despite our self-centered failures, our heavenly Father is merciful, and because of Jesus, He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

...Silence for reflection...

P: Heavenly Father,

C: I have sinned against my neighbors and against You. I have sought to be served. I have demanded others sacrifice for me. Forgive me, renew me, and humble me, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus into the world to be our great High Priest, who came to serve and offer His life as a ransom for us. Jesus died and is risen for you. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. I am forgiven. Christ has sacrificed His life for me.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray.

C: Jesus, You are our great High Priest. Teach us to follow Your example of service and sacrifice for others, so that more people may know of the forgiveness that can only be found in You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

Jeremiah 31:31–34

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 5:1–10

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel and Sermon Text according to St. John, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(John 18:15-18)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Praise Song

The Sermon

It's All About The Company You Keep

P: We rise and profess our faith,

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Words of our Lord

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Jesus, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: 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.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

P: Together, we pray,

C: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Meal. We ask that You would strengthen us as we journey toward Holy Week, trusting in Jesus, the source of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God's Benediction

Sending Praise Song