

Today's Theme for Worship: When God “saved us,” he didn’t simply deliver us from a life of emptiness and sin. He saved us and made us his “kingdom of priests” so we would serve him and proclaim the good news. Jesus chose his apostles to preach the Kingdom of God. We also are a people with that mission

Opening Hymn: 573 Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying

1 Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I—send me, send me”?

2 If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.

3 If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your off’rings You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.

4 Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying, And the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calleth, “Here am I—send me, send me!”

Text: Daniel March, 1816-1909, st. 1-2, 4, abr., alt.; unknown, st. 3, alt.

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Confession of Sins

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

♪ Oh Taste And See

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take re-fuge in him.

Your Word, O Lord, is e-ter-nal;
it stands firm in the heav-ens.
Your faith-ful-ness con-tin-ues for-ev-er.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless-ed are they who take re-fuge in him.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, Protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: ♪ Amen.**

First Lesson: Exodus 19:2-8a

Before he gives the Israelites the law, the LORD reminds them how he lovingly brought them out of their slavery in Egypt. In love he now calls them to be his covenant people.

²After they set out from Rephidim and came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my special treasure out of all the nations, although the entire earth is mine. ⁶You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."

⁷Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, and he set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together, "Everything that the LORD has said, we will do."

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 100

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

Worship the LORD with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.*

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;*

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;*

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

Second Lesson: Romans 5:6-11

Christ died for us while we were still sinners. We rejoice in God for this great gift of reunion through Christ.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

Verse:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 7:15-29

Jesus tells his disciples about his work among the people. He sends the Twelve to go to share his love by preaching the gospel and bringing back "the lost sheep of Israel."

³⁵Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.

³⁶When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Jesus called his twelve disciples to himself and gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, "Do not go among the Gentiles, and do not enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near!' ⁸Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."

C: ♪ Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: 576 Spread, Oh, Spread the Mighty Word

1 Spread, oh, spread the mighty Word;
Spread the kingdom of the Lord
Ev'rywhere his breath has giv'n
Life to beings meant for heav'n.

2 Tell them how the Father's will
Made the world and keeps it still,
How his only Son he gave
All from sin and death to save.

3 Tell of our Redeemer's love,
Who forever does remove
By his holy sacrifice
All the guilt that on us lies.

4 Tell them of the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

5 Up! The rip'ning fields you see.
Mighty shall the harvest be,
But the reapers still are few;
Great the work they have to do.

6 Lord of harvest, grant anew,
Joy and strength to work for you,
Till the gath'ring nations all
See your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774-1841, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Sermon

Romans 5:6-11

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Offering Prayer

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Prayer of the Church

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. 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

Hymn: 234 Praise to the Lord Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of his mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with his love he befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-80; tr. composite.

Prayer and Blessing

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **♪ A-men.**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **♪ A-men, A-men, A-men**

Closing Hymn: 346 In You Is Gladness

1 In you is gladness Amid all sadness,
Jesus, Sunshine of my heart.
By you are given The gifts of heaven;
You the true Redeemer are.
Our souls are waking; Our bonds are breaking.
Who trusts you surely Has built securely
And stands forever. Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see your shining,
Dying or living To you are clinging
Now and forever. Alleluia!

2 If he is ours, We fear no powers,
Not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of his glory
With hearts and voices; All heav'n rejoices
In him forever. Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Win over sadness,
Love him and praise him And still shall raise him
Glad hymns forever. Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Today's Organist: Mr. Jack Vogel