

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG "Red Book" 23 Children of the Heavenly Father

*Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in his bosom gather,
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given.*

*God his own doth tend and nourish,
In his holy courts they flourish,
From all evil things he spares them,
In his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever;
From all evil things he spares them,
In his mighty arms he bears them.*

*Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.*

OPENING BLESSING

OPENING UP ABOUT OURSELVES

C: Lord, God of our tomorrows, we confess our sinful condition before You. We desire something better than what we have and what we are. We know ourselves too well and see our human frailty. We know that our temporary gods are vulnerable and will crumble under the test. We realize that our desires are fickle and backfire on us at the worst of times. God of our tomorrows, give us Your forgiveness. Let us see today the promise of something better in our lives.

Silence for Reflection

RECEIVING GOOD NEWS

P: Our God is a tomorrow God, who knows our past and knows where we are headed. We trust a God who knows our needs and desires each of us come daily in prayer. As we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive our sin and make us clean from all unrighteousness. God always promises us something better, because of the miracle of forgiveness and love. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Red Song Book" 10 Behold What Manner of Love

*Behold what manner of love the Father has
Given unto us! Behold what manner of
Love the Father has given unto us! That
We should be called the children of God. That
We should be called the children of God.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: God of compassion, keep before us the love you have revealed in your Son, who prayed even for his enemies; in our words and deeds help us to be like him through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The Lord challenges His people to love their neighbor as they would love themselves

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

"You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

New Testament Reading: I Corinthians 3:10-23

The wisdom of this world is folly with God

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"You are the Salt..." By Pepper Choplin

[Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38-48](#)

God's love pours down on all unceasingly

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

[CHILDREN'S MESSAGE](#)

[SERMON SONG "Green Book" 423](#) [Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service](#)

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose Ev'ry gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you Lord, in deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul
By your Spirit send your power To our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, You're abundant life to share.*

[SERMON](#) ["Is He For Real?"](#) [Pastor Norm Metzler](#)

[AFFIRMATION OF FAITH](#)

C: I believe in God, who has created all things and continues to create new life within us.....I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By His life, His death and resurrection, I can know the true depth of human possibility, and experience the true joy of an abundant life.....I believe that the Holy Spirit is present, now and always, calling us to faith, giving us gifts and empowering us for service.....I believe that the community of believers called the church can experience the fullness of life through the word, the sacraments, and all that we do.

OFFERING

[PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE](#)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung echo version)

Our Father **Our Father**
Who Art in heaven **Who art in heaven**
Hallowed be Thy name **Hallowed be Thy name.**
Thy Kingdom come **Thy Kingdom come**
Thy will be done. **Thy will be done.**
On earth. **On earth.**
As it is in heaven. **As it is in heaven.**
Please give us. **Please give us.**
And forgive us **And forgive us**
All our sins. **All our sins.**
As we forgive **As we forgive**
Those who sin against us **Those who sin against us.**
And lead us not **And lead us not**
Into temptation **Into temptation**
But deliver us **But deliver us**
From the evil one **From the evil one.**
Our Father **Our Father**
Who art in heaven **Who art in heaven,**
Hallowed be thy name **Hallowed be thy name,**
Hallowed be thy name **Hallowed be thy name,**
Hallowed be thy name **Hallowed be thy name..**

A CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "Green Book" 261 On What Has Now Been Sown

*On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, bestow:
The pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
And yours alone shall be the praise!*

*To you our wants are known, From you are all our pow'rs
Accept what is your own And pardon what is ours.
Our praises Lord, and prayers receive
And to you Word a blessing give.*

*Oh, grant that each of us, Now met before you here,
May meet together thus When you and yours appear,
And follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!