

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Sept 8, 2013

ORDER OF SERVICE

THEME God calls us to learn more about him so that we can share his Good News with others more effectively.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

GETTING HONEST WITH GOD...

P: We are all sinners, also in failing to challenge ourselves to keep learning more about our faith , so that we can share the Gospel more effectively with others...

C: **God, forgive our failure to learn and grow in our faith/and give us the strength of your Holy Spirit/ to be eager learners,/ and to grow in our knowledge of your truth/ so we can share that truth with others.**

A Confessional Song... "I Lift My Eyes Up"

C: I lift my eyes up, unto the mountains,
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from you, maker of heaven,
Creator of the earth.
Oh, how I need you, Lord, you are my only hope,
You're my only prayer,
So I will wait for you, to come and rescue me,
Come and give me life...
I lift my eyes up, unto the mountains,
Where does my help come from...

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AND WE HEAR HIS WORD OF GRACE...

P: God knows better than we our sins and our failures, and he forgives us so that we can be free to live as his free and loved children. By Christ's command and in his place, I proclaim to you now the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

SONG OF PRAISE “How Majestic”

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name,

O Lord, we magnify your name

Prince of peace, mighty God.

O Lord God Almighty.

(REPEAT)

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray:

C: Gracious Lord God, you came into our world to bring us your word of light and truth. We thank you for giving us your wonderful words of life, and we pray that we may be open to keep learning and growing in your word; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses challenges the people of Israel to choose to follow their covenant with God and not turn away to false gods.

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

New Testament Reading: Philemon 1-21

St Paul urges his friend Philemon to treat the runaway slave Onesimus graciously.

*Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our
sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your
house:*

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.*

*I thank my God always when I remember you in my
prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you
have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that
the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full
knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.
For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my
brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed
through you.*

*Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to
command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer
to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for
Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose
father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to
you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending
him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad
to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your
behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to
do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness
might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. For this
perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you
might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but
more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to
me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.*

*So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you
would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you
anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my
own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even
your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the
Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.*

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-35

Jesus confronts the crowds following him with the challenge of being his disciples, and the hard choices they will have to make.

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY “Jesus Loves the Little Children”

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world,
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

2. Jesus died for all the children...

3. Jesus lives for all the children...

SERMON “Don’t Stop Learning!” Deuteronomy 30:19

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

C: We have faith in God, in response to his overwhelming love for us. We believe that God created us and all that we have, and has given to us gifts beyond measure. We have faith in Jesus, who emptied Himself of his divine power out of his great love for us. We believe that He died on a cross for our sin, conquered death and the power of evil, and was raised to life on the third day. His death is ours, His resurrection is ours, new life is ours because of His words and work. We believe in the Holy Spirit, in response to his wonderful love for us. We believe that the Spirit is present here among us and lives within each person. The Spirit continues to call people by the Gospel, creates and nurtures faith through his Word, and builds the church of Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we have power to stand in strength against all adversity. We believe that Christ is preparing a place for us and will come again to take each of us to be with him in his Kingdom. Amen.

WE GIVE OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful Lord God,
C: we offer with you what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive these offerings for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING SONG “Father Take These Gifts We Bring”

C: Father take these gifts we bring, and please listen as we sing.
In these gifts we offer all we are and have.
Draw us close to each we pray, by the word you give this day.
May we grow through this great mystery of love.

Through the gifts we bring to you we present our pleadings too
And the homage you deserve from all your flock.
May your word our faith increase,
make all strife and hatred cease
Let us help each other more by word and deed.

DEDICATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND LEARNERS

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (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

All that we need, all that we need.

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.

CLOSING BLESSING

CLOSING SONG "I Saw The Light"

I wandered so aimless, my life filled with sin,

I wouldn't let my dear savior in.

Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night,

Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Chorus:

I saw the light, I saw the light,

No more darkness, no more night,

Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight,

Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

2. Just like the blind man, I wandered alone,

Worries and fears I claimed for my own

Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight,

Praise, the Lord, I saw the Light.

Chorus.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC