

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

April 17, 2016

THEME: God supplies us with a great source for encouragement.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: Gracious Lord God,

C: We come to you in worship to give you thanks and praise....but we're here because of your grace which covers our sins. It is important for us to remember that we are sinners, breaking your law of love in many ways. Today we think especially of our tendency to lose our trust in You when our lives fall apart. Teach us today that when life falls apart, we can be rebuilt and re-established in a whole new way by You. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to see clearly that by being connected to you, we can be fully restored.

CONFESSIONAL SONG

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,
Come and listen to me.

(Repeat)

Forgiveness

P: God is good and gracious, and looks at us with the eyes of love that see past our narrowness and self-righteousness, that forgives these and all our sins, so that we can be at peace with him and live more powerfully in his love. By the loving urging of God, I therefore 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 "Red Book" 52

God is so Good

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good He's so good to me.
He cares for me, He cares for me,
He cares for me He's so good to me.
I'll do His will, I'll do His will,
I'll do His will, He's so good to me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....Lord, thank you for always calling us back to your Word for guidance and direction. Thanks You that Your Word is a “lamp for our feet, a light for our path”. Lord, help us to draw near to You and Your Word in faithful obedience through prayer and our everyday actions. In Jesus’ name we pray.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Nehemiah 1:1-9 *Nehemiah prepares to build the wall*

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachabiah.

Now it happened in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said, “O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’”

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8 *John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

SERMON

Rebuilding Your Life

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: We confess our faith along with Christians of all times and places

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And was born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate.

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

(We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: hear our prayer

CHORAL ANTHEM

The One

By Susan Bentall Boersma

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Green Book" 296

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

"Red Book" 126 Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees;
Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Green Book" 533 Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices,
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.