



**Therefore
be imitators
of God,
as beloved
children ...**

Ephesians 5:1, NRSV

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music and Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”
Christian Worship 255

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

The 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!

Song of Praise

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



C: **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are**

they who take ref - uge 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 ref — uge in him.

Prayer for the Day

P: O gracious Lord, in Baptism you brought us into your covenant of love. You also placed your name on us declaring we are your children and heirs of life in heaven. Because you have made us yours, remind us daily we wear your name everywhere we go. Now, give us the strength to live our lives to your glory. Help us resist the temptations and distractions of this world. Send us your Holy Spirit to fill us with joy in following your will and serving you in love. Hear us and help us to the glory of your name—Father, Son, and Spirit—the only true God, and our God.

C: A — — — men.

The Lessons from God's Word
"Grace Received is Grace to be Shared!"

Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Psalm and Response

Congregation sings

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Christian Worship 234 st. 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!

Psalm 103:1-4

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul. All that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits —

Who pardons all your guilt, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

Congregation sings “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Christian Worship 234 st. 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.

Psalm 103:8-12

P: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
abounding in mercy. He will not always accuse. He will not keep
his anger forever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve. He
does not repay us according to our guilty deeds. Yes, as high as
the heavens are above the earth, so powerful is his mercy toward
those who fear him. As distant as the east is from the west, so far
has he removed our rebellious acts from us.

Congregation sings “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Christian Worship 234 st. 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.

Psalm 103:13-18

P: As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has
compassion on those who fear him. For he remembers how we
are formed. He remembers that we are dust. But the LORD’S
mercy is from eternity to eternity over those who fear, and his
righteousness is with their children’s children, with those who
keep his covenant, with those who remember his precepts in order
to obey them. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Congregation sings “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”
Christian Worship 234 st. 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!

Epistle

Ephesians 4:29–5:2

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

^{5:1}Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Children’s Message

“The Lord Says!”

Verse of the Day

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves. In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace.

Alleluia!



C: Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia!



These words are writ — ten that we may be—lieve that



Je—sus is the Christ, the Son — of God.



Al—le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they

were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to.

³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

P: This is the Word of our God!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

“I Gave My Life for Thee”
Christian Worship 454

Sermon

Ephesians 5:1-2

“Be Imitators of God!”

Because you are his children
Because of the love of Christ

The Confession of Faith

(we unite in the words of the Apostles’ Creed)

**C: 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.**

Prayer, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Prayers for the Lord's Blessing

The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

**“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”
*Christian Worship 365***

Closing Prayer

P: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine and gracious Lord, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



C: A — men.

The Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in 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 his favor; and
give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A — men.

Closing Hymn

“Love in Christ is Strong and Living”
Christian Worship 490

Silent Prayer Announcements

Today—In the name of our blessed God—Father, Son, and Spirit—welcome! Truly we are privileged to be imprinted with the image of our God. We bear it not for our praise, but for his glory. May he strengthen us in every grace so we can serve him in love, and bring honor to his precious name!

- If you are visiting this morning, please sign a guest card or the guest book, and visit us again, soon!
- Everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee, and the gift of fellowship after the service.
- Bible Class will start around 11:00 am. We will look at Joseph's words to his brothers: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." We will also learn what it takes for us to say this in our life.

Monday—Handbell choir practice begins at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday—Outreach & Fellowship Planning meeting at 7:00 pm. All are invited to come. We will finalize plans for the "Fall Festival," Thanksgiving pot-luck, and Christmas activities.

Wednesday—Bible Class at 7:00 pm. We will continue with the video study on "Fragments of Truth." This evening we will see how God graciously preserved his Word for his Church. It is not too late to come and learn more!

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Clean—Brown

- Mowing beginning September 18th—Brown

Sunday, September 24th—Sunday Worship and Live-Streaming at 9:30 am. The Lord's prophet, Jonah, had reservations about serving the Lord. These came because he knew the Lord would be merciful and forgive those who repented in Nineveh. The lesson the Lord needed to teach Jonah is one we need to learn—God is merciful to sinners!

- Bible Class will follow and will focus on Matthew 20:1-6. From Jesus' parable we learn that God's call is the same for all people, and his reward is the same for all people.



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