

St. John's Order of Worship

September 26/27, 2020

Households of Faith: Why?

Welcome

In our Old Testament reading this weekend we hear Joshua boldly declare: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Today we begin our sermon series on "Households of Faith" in connection with Lutheran Hour Ministry and Barna research group. Why is this such an important conversation? Because faith in God is nourished and passed down through the generations, through households of faith like yours! It doesn't matter if you are young, old, single, married, divorced, widowed, living with roommates, or living in a multi-generation household...you still belong to a household of faith. God will work in and through Your household to accomplish His will in the world and to continue to spread His message of salvation. It is good to be together in the Lord and in His house today.

Opening Song

Today Your Mercy Calls Us [LSB 915]

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n.
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

O all embracing Mercy, O ever open Door,
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(silence for reflection & self examination)

P: Together we pray:

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son† and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Gracious Father, You have claimed us as Your own in the waters of baptism, and have given us the gift of forgiveness of sins by Your Son's dying and rising. We thank You for the love You've shown to each of us, Your children. Father, we boldly ask that You would continue to fill us with Your Spirit and that You would help our homes to be households of faith. Regardless of where we are at in life and what the makeup of our homes look like, may they be places of faith, places that seek to serve You, and places where Your love and forgiveness is shared. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior, and the families of God declare:

C: Amen.

Oh, Blest the House (vs 1,2,5) [LSB 862]

Oh, blest the house, what-e'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!

Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:14-15

¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Acts 11:4-18

⁴ But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶ Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

(♪) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:44-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Sermon Song

In Our Households, Heavenly Father [Mary J. Post]

In our households, heavenly Father Bless the bonds that make us one;
May our love reflect Your loving, May Your will be always done.

Send Your Spirit to inspire us And to teach Your discipline;
May our acts and conversations Show Your peace and joy within.

And in single life or married, Make us open to Your call
To encourage, comfort others, And show love to one and all.

Help us make our homes a haven, Quick with hospitality;
Move us Lord to serve each other With true love and charity.

Message: Pastor Jeff Hesse

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

A Christian Home (vs 1,3,4) [Barbara B. Hart]

O give us homes built firm upon the Savior,
Where Christ is Head and Counselor and Guide,
Where ev'ry child is taught His love and favor,
And in his heart dwells Christ the Crucified;
How sweet to know that though his footsteps waver,
His faithful Lord is walking by his side.

O give us homes where Christ is Lord and Master,
The Bible read, the precious songs still sung,
Where prayer comes first in peace or in disaster,
And praise is natural speech to ev'ry tongue,
Where mountains move before a faith that's vaster,
And Christian love is felt by everyone.

O Lord, our God, our homes are Thine forever;
We trust to Thee their problems toil and care.
Their bonds of love no enemy can sever
If Thou art always Lord and Master there.
Be Thou the center of our least endeavor;
Be Thou our guest, our hearts and homes to share.