

St. John's Order of Worship

September 12/13, 2020

Vision Living: We Are Still Disciples

Welcome

Around St. John's we define a disciple as one who is called by and who follows Christ. Where did your life of discipleship begin? At the font, where God claimed you as His own dear child. Has the pandemic or anything else going on in the world right now changed that truth? NO! You still belong to God. He has called you His own, and He has called you to follow Him. Nothing about that has changed in this past year. What does that mean moving forward in the days, weeks, months ahead? Cling to Your baptism and follow the voice of Your Savior. It is good to be together in the Lord!

Opening Song

God Loves Me Dearly (vs 1-3) [LSB 392]

God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.

Refrain: **Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
 God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

I was in slavery, Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working To make me free. **Refrain**

He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. **Refrain**

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.

God Loves Me Dearly (vs 4&5) [LSB 392]

Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;

Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed.

**Refrain: Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;

Now I will praise You All my life long. **Refrain**

Rite of Confirmation [LSB 272]

The pastor addresses the catechumens / congregation

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded You; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

C: Yes, I do.

P: Do you renounce the devil?

C: Yes, I renounce him.

P: Do you renounce all his works?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce all his ways?

C: Yes, I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

C: Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: **Yes, 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.**

P: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

C: **I do, by the grace of God.**

P: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

C: **I do, by the grace of God.**

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C: **I do, by the grace of God.**

P: We rejoice with thankful hearts that you have been baptized and have received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

P: The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Reception of Transfers / Professions of Faith

Relationship Covenant

I commit myself to a life of discipleship to include the following promises of grace:

1. Joyfully celebrate the gifts of forgiveness of sins and eternal life, which God gave me in my baptism,
2. Openly proclaim to others my God--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed,
3. Be steadfast in prayer,
4. Daily oppose the devil and all sinful influences around me and from within me,
5. Be loyal to my church family and her teachings,
6. Declare the Scriptures to be the inerrant, inspired Word of God,
7. Ongoing spiritual growth through regular and faithful worship, reception of Holy Communion, and Bible Study,
8. Serve my Lord with the time, talents, and resources He gives me within my church family and within His church at large.

I make this commitment depending fully upon the strength God gives me daily through His means of Grace, Word and Sacrament, and trusting in His forgiveness when I fall short.

Prayer of the Day

P: Heavenly Father, we praise You today and everyday for the forgiveness won for us in Christ. We thank You for His death which covers over every sin we have ever and will ever commit. We thank You that, just as our sins were nailed to the cross and we were buried with Him in the tomb, that the power of Your Spirit has raised us to new life with Him in His resurrection. Help us to cling with absolute certainty to our identities as Your dearly loved and forgiven children. May we never forget that we, Your disciples, belong to You, and that You have promised to love us with an everlasting love. We love You, Father, and it's in Your Son's name that we pray, and the children of God declared:

C: Amen.

New Testament Reading: Acts 16:6-15

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

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 4:18-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Song

O Christ, Who Called the Twelve (vs 1,3,4,5) [LSB 856]

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

O Christ, th'apostles' Lord The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:
Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.

Message: Pastor Stephen Reynolds

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.

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord