

“Clearly Caring” Worship Service

Opening Hymn: “Come, Rejoice before Your Maker” (CW 228)

Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father, our Creator; and of the Son, our Savior; and of the Holy Spirit, our Life-Giver.

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins:

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, you created me to live perfectly with you and to dwell with one another in complete harmony for all of life’s days. All too often, however, I have fallen far short of your holy desires. I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. I have failed to love my neighbor as myself. I have failed to treasure all of humankind as precious in your sight. I have exchanged selfless love for selfish conceit. For all of this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. 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.

Sung Response:

*I, a sinner, come to you, With a penitent confession.
Savior, show me mercy, too; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve - Jesus sinners does receive.
(CW 304, vs.5)*

Absolution:

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

Sung Response:

*Oh, how blest it is to know, Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow, By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe - Jesus sinners does receive.*

*Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave - Jesus sinners does receive.
(CW 304, vs. 6-7)*

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray.

P: Heavenly Father, every good and perfect gift comes from your gracious and loving hands. Give to us a thankful and caring heart as we realize your blessings in every new day. Through your Word, teach us to have reverence for life in every stage and a mindset that sees all of

humankind as souls bought by the blood of your Son. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Christ Clearly Cares About Our Bodies

First Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21

Sung Response:

*Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.*

(CW 260, vs.1)

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 8 (CW p.67)

Christ Clearly Cares About Our Souls

Second Lesson: Romans 5:6-8

Sung Response:

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain: *Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"*

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. Refrain.*

(CW 256, vs.1,3)

Apostles' Creed

Sermon Hymn: "Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go" (CW 518)

Sermon: "Christians Can't Help But Care"

Text: Luke 10: 25-37

Offering

Prayer of the Church:

P: God our Father, your Son welcomed all who came to him, even the outcasts and despised. Give a faith that dares to come to you, trusting only in your love. Give me a love that accepts and cares for others, as I have been accepted and cared for by you.

C: Thank you for your caring heart, O Lord.

P: Gracious God, thank you for my home and family, for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared, for daily bread. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness.

C: Give me a caring heart, O Lord.

P: Gracious God, too often I put my own concerns and priorities above your will and work. Rid me of my selfishness, and fill me with the zeal to keep you first in my life.

C: Give me a caring heart, O Lord.

P: Gracious God, all that I have comes from you: my body and mind, my strength and intelligence, my time and abilities, my energy and possessions. Guard me from the temptation to use these gifts only for my personal benefit. Make me willing to use them joyfully in service to you and to your people.

C: Give me a caring heart, O Lord.

P: Gracious God, teach me to love others as you have loved me. Help me be more patient and alert to the needs of others, and always ready to serve them with the blessings you have given to me.

C: Give me a caring heart, O Lord.

C: Gracious God, 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. We ask this all in our Savior's name, who also taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living" (CW 490)

Blessing:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with 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 favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen.