

You + Me = We
Sermon Series on Relationships

- Dec. 24 Starting With Love (Love is Born — *Christmas Eve*)
Dec. 31 *Bonus Sunday* Revising Assumptions
Jan. 7 Actually Forgiving
Jan. 14 Improving Communication
Jan. 21 *Navigating Conflicts*



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 20, 2024 - 5:00 PM
JANUARY 21, 2024- 10:45 AM

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

PRELUDE

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

arr. Jim Vyhanek

WELCOME

*INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: The ancient prophet Moses calls on us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and might.

People: **Lord God, help us to put love first in our faith and our friendships.**

Pastor: The book of Proverbs informs us that reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

People: **Lord God, inspire in us kind words and affirmations to foster trustworthy communication.**

Pastor: The apostle Matthew warns us that if we cast judgement, we too will be judged.

People: **Lord God, temper our hypocrisy, and give us strength to act with integrity and mercy.**

Pastor: Christ instructs us to humble ourselves, and our reward will be great in heaven.

People: **Lord God, give us wisdom not to exalt ourselves, but rather to act with humility and to notice the needs of those around us.**

Pastor: In Paul’s letter to the Romans, he reminds us that God demonstrated His own love for us by sending His Son to be sacrificed on the cross.

People: **Lord God, let this be a reminder that we should strive to meet the needs of others with empathy and compassion.**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Please kneel or be seated.)

Leader: Heavenly Father, we often fall short of these ideals. Let us come before You with confession, seeking forgiveness for our sins.

People: God of honesty and sincerity, we confess the hypocritical thoughts and actions we carry in our daily lives. We struggle to break the patterns of the bad relationships we are involved in. We humbly ask for forgiveness for these failings.

Leader: People of God, your confession has been heard. Almighty God, in His mercy, gave His Son to die on the cross to forgive you these sins, named and unnamed. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by the authority of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Blessed Jesus, At Your Word” *Hymn 904*
(Face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)

**Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.**

**Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

**Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.**

[5:00]*SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

[10:45] THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Joshua Richard Miller
Hannah Elizabeth Miller

Lord's Command and Promise of Baptism

Profession of Faith

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

People: I do renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

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

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

People: 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: 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. Amen.

Rite of Baptism

Symbols of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

Baptismal Hymn

“Father Welcomes”

Hymn 605

Refrain

**Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

**Little children, come to me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. Refrain**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them... ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING

Acts 15:36-41 (NIV)

³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:12-14, 19-20

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

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

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ¹³So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going... ¹⁹They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus

answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”²⁰ These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

[10:45] CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

***SERMON HYMN**

“Oh, Blest the House”

Hymn 862

**Oh, blest the house, whate’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!**

**Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children’s foremost need
And weary not of care or cost.
May none to them and heav’n be lost!**

**Oh, blest that house; it prospers well.
In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children’s lives is shown
How richly God can bless His own.**

**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!**

THE SERMON

“(You + Me = We): Navigating Conflicts”

[5:00]*CONFESSION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

HOLY COMMUNION

***WORDS OF PREPARATION**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

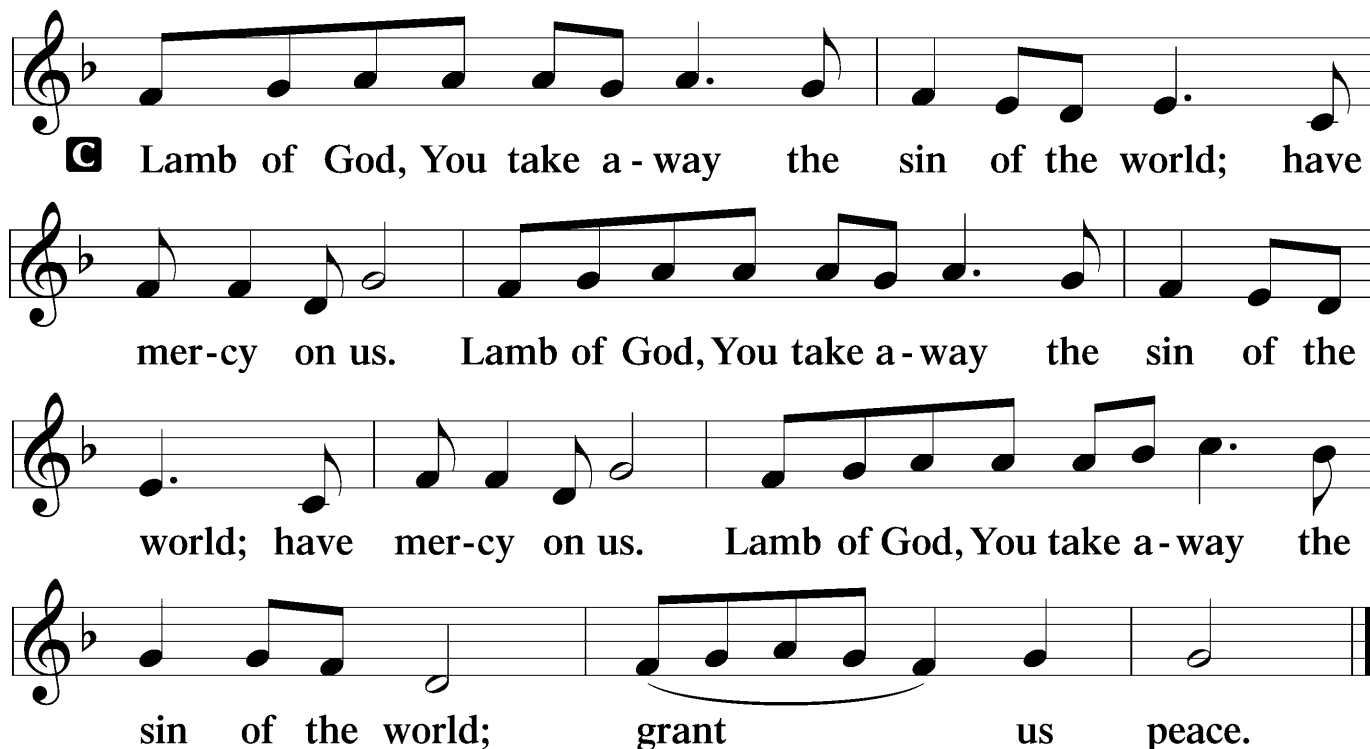
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses

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.

*AGNUS DEI

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C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Hymn 738

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
 Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
 Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
 Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

Hymn 570

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.

“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”

Hymn 632

O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

***THE BENEDICTION** *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

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Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN** “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Hymn 803

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!**

***DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Hymn to Joy"

arr. Stephen R. Johnson

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Officiant	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Organist	Sandy Hulse
Communion Deacons	Vickie Ryan, Jackie Stine
Lector	Roger Walker
Usher/Greeter Team	Jeff & Pat Wittcop

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

Preacher	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Celebrant	The Brendon T. Moore
Liturgist	Vicar Mark Esser
Organist	Sandy Hulse
Sound Technician	Bruce Wales
Elder on Duty	Janet Hostler
Communion Deacons	Krista Bernthal, Dr. Matt Bernthal, Jennifer Smith
Lectors	Fred Aceto, Linda Aceto
Crucifer	Brayden Carbone
Acolyte	Chase Carbone
Greeters	Jason & Britta Witcher & Family
Ushers	Steve Hnatiuk, Nick Nicholson, Barry Walker

CREDITS

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