



**“SEEING AS GOD SEES –
LOVING AS GOD LOVES”**

*Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:00AM
Worship Service*

AS WE GATHER

A simple and poignant Sunday School song says simply, “God sees the little sparrow fall. It meets His tender view; if God so loves the little birds, I know He loves me too.” The central theme of the song is the care of God for His creation. The words also serve as a reminder that God sees us, His children, in a special way. We are the crown of His creation, as are all the people He has fashioned. Seeing people as God sees them is central to our lives of faith!

WELCOME

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Old Rugged Cross”

arr. Ingram

OPENING HYMN

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

LSB 660

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss.
From vict’ry unto vict’ry
His army He shall lead
Till ev’ry foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed.

- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him
Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose.

- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
Stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor;
Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle,
The next the victor’s song.
The soldiers, overcoming,
Their crown of life shall see

And with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally.

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Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES (Psalm 146:1–2, 5, 10)

P Praise the LORD!

C Praise the LORD, O my soul!

P I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

C I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the LORD his God.

P The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

HYMN

“To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”

LSB 613 st. 2

2 O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray:

O cast me not in wrath away!

Let Thy good Spirit ne'er depart,

But let Him draw to Thee my heart

That truly penitent I be:

O God, be merciful to me!

Text: Public domain

P Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C Gracious God, in heartfelt repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are sin-stained people by nature. Each day we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We have not seen people in the loving way that You see them. We have not always been ready to care and quick to help. We do indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

P God is loving and merciful. He sees us with loving eyes and graciously hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INTROIT (Psalm 66:1–2, 8–9, 20; antiphon: v. 16)

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

C Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

P Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of His praise be heard,

C who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

P Blessed be God,
because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

HYMN of PRAISE

“O Sing to the Lord”

LSB 808 sts. 1 & 2

1 O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to the Lord,
O sing God a new song.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.

2 For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord!
And God has done wonders.
O sing to our God,
O sing to our God.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34–48

³⁴Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus

of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 5:1–8

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:9–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus said:] “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

C 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We thank God for the Church and pray that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we pray that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, be with us and bless us.

P We pray for our families, especially for mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers on this special day. We ask the blessing of our bounteous God on all those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut-in, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all those whose needs are known to us, *[especially . . .]*. Lord, grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places.

P Most merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives, seeing each person through Your loving eyes, until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.**

Sit

SERMON HYMN

“On Galilee’s High Mountain”

LSB 835

- 1 On Galilee’s high mountain
Christ gave the great command
In words of strength and promise
Which all can understand:
“All pow’r to Me is given
To do what I shall choose;
Therefore I send My children,
Their witness I will use.”
- 2 The Lord who, born of Mary,
Came down as man and died,
Who preached to all who listened,
For us was crucified—
This Lord, our living brother,
In pow’r at God’s right hand,
Has chosen us to carry
His truth to ev’ry land.
- 3 His strength within my weakness
Will make me bold to say
How His redeeming power
Transforms my stubborn clay;
His touch of fire ignites me,
With courage I am sent,
My tongue-tied silence broken,
With grace made eloquent.
- 4 And not alone to nations
In faraway retreats,
But ev’rywhere I broadcast
His love through crowded streets:
The lives that my life touches,
However great or small—
Let them through me see Jesus,
Who served and saved us all.
- 5 That ev’ryone He chooses,
For reasons of His own,
Will find in Christ his calling
To live His love alone.
His presence always leads us
Till time no more shall be;
Christ’s strength, His love, His comfort
Give us His victory.

△ 6 Lord, gather all Your children,
Wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven
To live eternally
With You, our loving Father,
And Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us
The joy to persevere.

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SERMON

RECOGNITION OF MOTHERS

¶ Since 1870, the second Sunday in May has been designated as a time to honor mothers in the United States. In more recent times, expressions of appreciation and honor have been extended to grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and all women whose contributions to the well-being of children have enriched society. Through the ages, many women have been remembered and honored by the Church. The hymn “For All the Faithful Women” celebrates Christian women throughout the centuries, thanking God for them.

HYMN

“For All the Faithful Women”

LSB 855 st. 1

1 For all the faithful women
Who served in days of old,
To You shall thanks be given;
To all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
In tasks Your wisdom gave.
To You their lives bore witness,
Proclaimed Your pow’r to save.

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¶ Several women commemorated in individual stanzas of “For All the Faithful Women” are honored for their examples of blessed motherhood. Among those are Hannah, from Old Testament times, and Eunice and Lois, mentioned in the New Testament writings of Paul. There is also a stanza for Mary, the mother of our Lord. Bringing the remembrance to present times, a new stanza honors mothers from all times and places as “gifts among us.”

HYMN

“We Thank You, Lord, for Mothers”

1 We thank You, Lord, for mothers
Who Your great kindness share
Through loving deeds for others
As emblems of Your care.
May we true honor show them
And joyfully express
That they are gifts among us
To cherish and to bless.

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CONCLUSION

¶ The final stanza of “For All the Faithful Women” is a doxology, most appropriate this day to glorify God as we express our thanks for the faithful women in our lives and in the ongoing life of the Church.

HYMN

“For All the Faithful Women”

LSB 855 st. 4

△ 4 All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise the Holy Spirit,
Who binds the Church in one!
With saints who went before us,
With saints who witness still,
We sing glad Alleluias
And strive to do Your will.

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BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

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