

An Order of Worship for the Home

The Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2020

Teaching through 1 Peter during the Easter season. (week 4, chapter 4)

This service is written for two speakers. Ideally, family members can speak and declare God's grace to one another following this format. For those who live alone, this worship outline can be followed with a brother or sister in Christ over the phone. You may call on a friend to fill this role, or your elder or pastor can worship with you by phone.

There is an "offering prayer" included in this outline. As we shelter in place, please continue to worship through giving. You can mail offering envelopes and checks to Calvary or visit www.calvaryslz.org to give online.

Invocation

Reader 1: He is risen!
Reader 2: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Reader 1: All thanks and praise to God...
Reader 2: Father, Son and Spirit...
Together: Amen.
Reader 2: He is risen!
Reader 1: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;
7 who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Confession & Absolution

*Make sure each person present has opportunity to confess to a brother or sister in faith.
Go through both parts as many times as needed to accommodate all who are gathered.*

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster. (Joel 2:13)*

Christian Confessing: I am returning to the Lord my God.
I am returning my eyes because they have strayed. I am
returning my heart because it has been unfaithful. I am
returning my hands and feet because they have been
disobedient. I am returning all of me because of my
great need.

Christian Responding: What is your hope in returning to your God?

Christian Confessing: My God is gracious and merciful. He is slow to anger, and
he abounds in steadfast love. My hope is that he will
show these things to me as his child. My hope is that he
will forgive me for the sake of Jesus Christ, his own Son.

Christian Responding: Your God meets you as you return to him. He has promised to forgive all who call on him. He gives salvation to all who put their hope in Jesus. These gifts are yours. You are forgiven!

Together: Amen

John 14:1-14 (Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter)

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

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.

1 Peter 4:7-11 (message text)

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Message from Pastor Matt

Love Covers a Multitude of Sins

Love covers a multitude of sins. I'm pretty sure I've read that on greeting cards, posters, and bookmarks. I may have even seen it stitched on a pillow at some point. As familiar as the phrase may be, I hadn't given it much thought until this week.

I had assumed the quote was a reference to God's love. I assumed it was talking about forgiveness of sins, and the salvation which is ours in Jesus. But actually, it's pointing to something else.

The *love which covers a multitude of sins* is our love for one another. When we read the phrase with a little context this becomes clear.

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

But, if this is our love for one another, how can it cover a multitude of sins? First, let's be clear that this "covering" is not forgiveness and salvation. We certainly share forgiveness and salvation with one another. We share God's love with one another. His love is the source of ours. But, the Apostle Peter is pointing to something else.

Here's an analogy: I've done a lot of camping in my life – Boy Scouts, guiding pack trips in Colorado, solo trips, and even climbing excursions. I love a good campfire. When it's time for bed the fire needs to be put out. If a hose is unavailable, one of the best ways to put out a fire is to smother it. You knock down any wood that's still burning and spread the embers, then cover the hot coals with dirt. The dirt covering keeps the fire from starting up again, and keeps you safe while you sleep.

The love we show to one another smothers the fires of discord in our community. Glowing embers and small sparks can become uncontrollable blazes if they're ignored. But *love covers a multitude of sins*. Sin will always exist in our relationships...even in our friendships as a church...even at Calvary Lutheran Church. *Love covers a multitude of sins*. Love smothers the fires of sin.

How does this look? Peter tells us in the next verse:

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:9)

You treat everyone as if they are your guest. Hospitality is not reserved for strangers or newcomers. You also extend hospitality to the people you know best. You become a servant to them.

This is a challenge. It requires a great deal of humility. It's easier to show hospitality to a stranger because we assume they'll appreciate it. When we know people well, there are some we want to serve and others we would rather not. Guess what – extending love through hospitality is for those brothers and sisters too.

If you think about it, hospitality is an interesting perspective for Peter to introduce. He could have emphasized our love for one another in a number of ways, but he chooses the service of hospitality – caring for guests. It brings to mind events where we gather with friends and eat meals together. I wonder what impression hospitality made on Peter?

There was a night while Peter was with Jesus and the other apostles, when his Lord modeled the service of hospitality. Jesus washed Peter's feet. Jesus loved Peter by serving him in a very tangible, face-to-face way. Jesus humbled himself and lowered

himself to the role of a servant for Peter's sake. Now, Peter tells us that this type of service is central to how we relate to one another as a church family.

Jesus showed us what it means to humble ourselves for the sake of others. He humbled himself to bear the cross and die for your sake and mine. He didn't have to do this, but he chose to do it. He chose to serve you even while you were focused on serving yourself. As you receive the gift of his sacrifice, and the gift of his resurrected life, you become a servant with him. His life is now your life. His focus on others is now your focus as well. He served you by his death and resurrection. He now serves through you, in your hospitality shown to brothers and sisters.

Peter tells us that whoever speaks, does so as one who speaks the very words of God. That's big! The words of God brought forth life at creation. The words of God promised salvation through a coming Savior. The words of God bring meaning and power to the water of baptism, and the bread and wine at communion. The words of God are good, gracious and loving.

When you speak, deliver the gifts of God through your words. Let your speech be a blessing to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Let your words build them up in faith and purpose. Show hospitality in your words. Show love in your words.

Peter also tells us that whoever serves, does so by the strength that God supplies. The strength of God is seen in his actions. The strength of God mercifully responded to the cries of his people when they returned to him time and again – even after they turned their backs on him time and again. The strength of God took on frail and weak human flesh, becoming a child needing care and nurture from people he came to save. The strength of God wrapped a towel around his waist and took up a washbasin in order to clean the feet of his friends. The strength of God chose to bear your sin and die on a cross rather than lose you forever.

When you serve, may your actions draw on the strength of Jesus. Act in ways which lift others up. Choose actions which honor the value of your brothers and sisters. Show hospitality in your actions. Show love by serving.

In your words and your actions, show the love of Jesus to brothers and sisters in faith. God's love shines through your hospitality. His love brings forgiveness and salvation. Your love for his people will smother the flames of discord, because your love covers a multitude of sins.

Offering Prayer

If you have an offering present as you worship, you may place your hands over it during the offering prayer.

Reader 1: With thankful hearts we receive from you, O Lord.
Reader 2: With thankful hearts we respond.
Reader 1: Receive our thanks and praise.
Reader 2: Receive our offerings.
Together: Receive us as your own.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Share prayer requests with one another. Pray over the requests shared, then pray the Lord's Prayer together.

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.

Blessing (2 Corinthians 12:14)

Reader 1: He is risen!
Reader 2: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Reader 1: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
Reader 2: ...and the love of God
Reader 1: ...and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you
Reader 2: ...and with you
Together: Amen
Reader 2: He is risen!
Reader 1: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

As applicable, please share this resource with others who would benefit. An electronic version is available at www.calvaryslz.org. We can also add friends to our mailing list if that is preferred.

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