David: A Matter of Heart

 **“David and Bathsheba: When We Fall”**

September 20, 2020

9:30 AM Service

**As We Gather**

What do we do when we fail before God? When we fall short of His calling? When we give in to the sinful nature within? On the one hand this happens daily in all of our lives. Sometimes we fall in small ways. Sometimes in very serious ways.

Today’s account from the life of David shows him falling far from God’s glory. We do not see David as a role model today, neither in what he did, nor in how he made it worse by failing to confront his sin. God calls us to honesty before Him and before ourselves. May God lead us into true confession, that He might shower us with His forgiving grace.

**Welcome**

**“God Loved the World So That He Gave” (LSB 571)**

**Invocation**

**Confession and Absolution** *(from Divine Service IV, page 203)*

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

**C Amen.**

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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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 on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**“Lord I Need You”**

**Readings**

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 11:1-27**

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king’s men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah.  But David remained in Jerusalem.

**2**One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **3**and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” **4**Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. **5**The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

**6**So David sent this word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent him to David. **7**When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. **8**Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house and wash your feet.” So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. **9**But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master’s servants and did not go down to his house.

**10**David was told, “Uriah did not go home.” So he asked Uriah, “Haven’t you just come from a military campaign? Why didn’t you go home?”

**11**Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord’s men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!”

**12**Then David said to him, “Stay here one more day, and tomorrow I will send you back.” So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next. **13**At David’s invitation, he ate and drank with him, and David made him drunk. But in the evening Uriah went out to sleep on his mat among his master’s servants; he did not go home.

**14**In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. **15**In it he wrote, “Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die.”

**16**So while Joab had the city under siege, he put Uriah at a place where he knew the strongest defenders were. **17**When the men of the city came out and fought against Joab, some of the men in David’s army fell; moreover, Uriah the Hittite died.

**18**Joab sent David a full account of the battle. **19**He instructed the messenger: “When you have finished giving the king this account of the battle, **20**the king’s anger may flare up, and he may ask you, ‘Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn’t you know they would shoot arrows from the wall? **21**Who killed Abimelek son of Jerub-Besheth? Didn’t a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you get so close to the wall?’ If he asks you this, then say to him, ‘Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.’”

**22**The messenger set out, and when he arrived he told David everything Joab had sent him to say. **23**The messenger said to David, “The men overpowered us and came out against us in the open, but we drove them back to the entrance of the city gate. **24**Then the archers shot arrows at your servants from the wall, and some of the king’s men died. Moreover, your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead.”

**25**David told the messenger, “Say this to Joab: ‘Don’t let this upset you; the sword devours one as well as another. Press the attack against the city and destroy it.’ Say this to encourage Joab.”

**26**When Uriah’s wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. **27**After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Second Reading: 2 Samuel 12:1-14**

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. **2**The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, **3**but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

**4**“Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”

**5**David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! **6**He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”

**7**Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8**I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. **9**Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in His eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. **10**Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised Me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

**11**“This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. **12**You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

**13**Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. **14**But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm Psalm 51:1-12**

 **1Have mercy on me, O God,
    according to Your unfailing love;
according to Your great compassion
    blot out my transgressions.
2Wash away all my iniquity
    and cleanse me from my sin.**

**3For I know my transgressions,
    and my sin is always before me.
4Against You, You only, have I sinned
    and done what is evil in Your sight;
so You are right in Your verdict
    and justified when You judge.
5Surely I was sinful at birth,
    sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
6Yet You desired faithfulness even in the womb;
    You taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

**7Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
    wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
8Let me hear joy and gladness;
    let the bones You have crushed rejoice.
9Hide Your face from my sins
    and blot out all my iniquity.**

**10Create in me a pure heart, O God,
    and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11Do not cast me from Your presence
    or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
12Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
    and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**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.**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 18:9-14**

**9**To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: **10**“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11**The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. **12**I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

**13**“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

**14**“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ**

**Nicene Creed**

 **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

 **And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

 **And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.**

 **And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Sermon**

**Prayers**

*Please add your prayer requests to the live chat*

**Thanksgivings**

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Petitions**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**The Service of Holy Communion**

**Preface**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . .

**The 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.

**The Words of Institution**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**Communion**

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

**People: Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

**People: Amen.**

*(Take and drink)*

**Hymn During Communion**

**“Drawn to Your Cross” (LSB 560)**

**Communion Blessing**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

**People: Amen.**

**Prayer**

**Benediction**

**“The Stand”**

You stood before creation
Eternity in Your hand
You spoke the earth into motion
My soul now to stand

You stood before my failure
And carried the cross for my shame
My sin weighed upon Your shoulders
My soul now to stand

So what can I say
And what can I do
But offer this heart O God
Completely to You

So I'll walk upon salvation
Your Spirit alive in me
My life to declare Your promise
My soul now to stand

So what can I say
And what can I do
But offer this heart O God
Completely to You

**Chorus**

So I'll stand
With arms high and heart abandoned
In awe of the One who gave it all
I'll stand
My soul Lord to You surrendered
All I am is Yours

**Offering**

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John’s (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

***RightNow Media Recommendation of the Week***

Our service today included Psalm 51, David’s confession before God regarding his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah. Here is a resource for diving in deeper to this great psalm of repentance and forgiveness

***Psalm 51 by R.C. Sproul***

**https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/1210**

As he examines David's sin and confession, Dr. R.C. Sproul demonstrates how God was merciful to David, restoring to him the joy of salvation. In addition, Dr. Sproul addresses the need for all people to recognize their sin and repent, acknowledging that God is the Judge for all people and  that He shows mercy to the repentant.

**Memory Verse for This Week**

Have mercy on me, O God,
    according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
    blot out my transgressions.
**2**Wash away all my iniquity
    and cleanse me from my sin.

**3**For I know my transgressions,
    and my sin is always before me.
**4**Against you, you only, have I sinned
    and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
    and justified when you judge.

*Psalm 51:1-4*

**St. John’s People and Families to Pray for This Week**

Jacob, Sarah, & Georgia Bartelt

Tom, Tracy, Aidan, & Grayson Cushing

Jim & Nancy Henry

Ed and Sherlene Mulsoff

Pastor Ted & Elaine Zimmerman

Michael, Stacy, & Noah Bezmarevich

Rick, Marisa, & Benjamin Dorsey

Brandon, Erica, & Jacob Imhoff

Sean, Marina, Penelope, & Quinn Mulligan

Jackob and Vivian Sweet

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