

Epiphany 4
“The Greatest is Love”

January 30, 2022

As We Gather

Paul’s words about love in 1 Corinthians 13 are some of the most well-known words of the Bible, some of the most familiar words about love in all literature. But despite the fact that they are used at many weddings, Paul is actually talking about life in a Christian congregation. Our interactions are to be marked by the cross-shaped love of Jesus.

Welcome

Gathering

“Blessed Jesus At Your Word” LSB 904

1 Blessed 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

“Love is Here”

Come to the water you who thirst
And you'll thirst no more
Come to the Father you who work
And you'll work no more
And all you who labor in vain
And to the broken and shamed

CHORUS

Love is here love is now
Love is pouring from His hands from His brow
Love is near it satisfies
Streams of mercy flowing from His side (yeah)
('Cause love is here)

Come to the Treasure you who search
And you'll search no more
Come to the Lover you who want
And you'll want no more

And all you who labor in vain
And to the broken and shamed yeah

And to the bruised and fallen
Captives bound and broken-hearted
He is the Lord He is the Lord yeah
By His stripes He's paid our ransom
From His wounds we drink salvation
He is the Lord He is the Lord

Love is here love is now
Love is pouring from His hands from His brow
Love is near it satisfies
Streams of mercy flowing from His side
Streams of mercy flowing from His side
'Cause love is here
Love is here yeah
King *CHORUS*

Prayer

Children's Church

Service of the Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

⁷ But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.

⁹ Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

³⁵ "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" ³⁷ And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

³⁸ Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹ So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

⁴⁰ At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹ Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

⁴² At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to You O Christ

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.

Sermon

"The Greatest is Love"

Offering

Musical Offering - Handbells

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John's People and Families

John & Kristi Clark

Ben, Lauren, Sophia, Michael, & David Frey

Shirley Knight

James, Hailey, & James Regan

Tiffany Tucker, Victoria & Alexander Christie

Thomas and William Caldwell

J.C., Natalie, Andrew, & Grant Greenberg

Jon, Emma, & James Keyes

Peter, Rachel, & Ava Piersig

James, Betty, & Sienna Yoo

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.

Benediction

“Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service” LSB 848

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to Your purpose
Every gift which You impart.

2 Still Your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light

In its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving
Your abundant life to live.

4 Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go.
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good-will and comfort,
Counsel, aid and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.

Offering

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

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

Memory Verse for This Week

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Liturgist	Kevin Mathison
Lay Readers	Paula Schweiger, Brett Carey
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Worship Preparation Team	Bob & Doris Klein, Betsy Gewirz
Ushers	Gerry Schneider, Penni Cremen
Projection Technician	Steve Dierker
Children's Church	Gail Vandeburgt, Kristi Carey
Worship Band	Gabriel Gutierrez, Chris Vecera, Chris Newman, Jacob Bartelt

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