

Did God Really Say?
“Trust Your Feelings”

September 17, 2023

As We Gather

There are many variations to this: Be True to Yourself. Follow Your Heart. It is true that we are to live lives of authenticity, sincerity and integrity. But are our feelings the most reliable barometer of what is true and just? Can our hearts be trusted? God’s Word affirms that we are made in the image of God, but that we are also corrupted and tainted by sin. Because of original sin, our hearts cannot be trusted as much as the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the Word.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus” LSB 531

1 Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, Thou universal Savior,
Bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor;
Life is given through Thy name.

3 Jesus, hail! Enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide;
All the heav'nly host adore Thee,
Seated at Thy Father's side.
There for sinners Thou art pleading;
There Thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding
Till in glory we appear.

2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
All our sins on Thee were laid;
By almighty love anointed,
Thou hast full atonement made.
All Thy people are forgiven
Through the virtue of Thy blood;
Opened is the gate of heaven,
Reconciled are we with God.

4 Worship, honor, pow'r, and blessing
Thou art worthy to receive;
Highest praises, without ceasing,
Right it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
All your noblest anthems raise;
Help to sing our Savior's merits,
Help to chant Immanuel's praise!

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;

Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Prayer

Children's Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷ “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?

¹⁰ “I the LORD search the heart
and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds deserve.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:10-20

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

¹³ He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."

¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

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.

Sermon

"Trust Your Feelings"

Ministry Moment

Mission India

Offering

"Let us Ever Walk With Jesus" LSB 685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do our Father's bidding,
Faithful Lord, with me abide,
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy:
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate of heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head,
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be;
Life eternal grant to me.

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

Tom, Christine, Elise, & Matthew Commander
George Fleischmann
Thane, Sarah, Ari, Naomi, & Bodhi Knutson
Tyler, Michelle, Grayson, & Austin Roberts
Clay & Bonnie Thompson
Kale, Ranko, & Jack Anderson
Eric and Zoe Ewig
Thomas, Christine, Audrey, & MacKenzie Kvamme
Tina and Kiley Reach
Morgan, Joanne, & Pierce Zaninovich

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

People: **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

"Christ Be My Leader" LSB 861

1 Christ be my leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

2 Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the Life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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

Then He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.

Luke 9:23

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Gail Vamdebirgt
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Projector Tech	Bob Klein
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Lisa and Bob De Young
Children's Church	Kevin Mathison

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