

Did God Really Say?
“God Made You This Way, So It's OK”

September 24, 2023

As We Gather

We continue the series of messages entitled: “Did God really say?” Today’s topic is “God Made You This Way, so it’s OK”. What way? The way I am today. The result of a process that began in my mother’s womb (Ps. 139:13-14) and continued as He shaped me along the way until today, employing parental nurture, education, training, spiritual nurture, life experiences, etc. So our being with all its parts (body and soul, mind and emotion, talents and personality) are gifts of God. But what if I don’t like some aspects of who and what I am? Is that OK? What about people who are challenged with great disabilities? That’s surely not OK, is it? Lots to chew on here.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Great Are You Lord”

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that
is broken
And great are You Lord

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You re - store
ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord **Chorus x2**

Chorus

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord
Chorus x2

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

“Come Thou Font of Every Blessing” LSB 686

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

Prayer

Children’s Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Psalm 139:1-18

You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

- ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
- ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
- ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-30

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches

our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-7

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

The 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 men 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.

Sermon

"God Made You This Way, So It's OK"

Offering

Musical Offering

"Be Still" arr. David Lantz III

Sanctuary Choir

*In the stillness of the morning,
Just before the breaking sun,
If you listen, and be still,
God will be there.*

*In the quiet of the evening,
Just before the setting sun,
If you listen and be still,
God will be there,
God will be there.*

*Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know, be still.*

*In the quiet of a whisper,
God will come and say your name.
If you listen and be still,
He will be there,
He will be there.*

*Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know, be still.*

*Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am.
Be still and know, be still.*

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

Paulette Cooper
Sheila Flory
Brent, Jessica, Beckett, & Peyton Koen
Steve & Judi Rock
Lisa Thornton
George, Christina, & Nicholas Apostolopoulos
Heather Bryce & Layne Fishleder
David, Mary, & Joey LaMonica
Matthew, Lindsay, Aubrey, & Madison Regan
Jorge, Angelica, Alyssa, & Jaden Zetina

+ 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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord, Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In these last days, You have poured out Your Holy Spirit on Your Church that Your sons and daughters might proclaim the wonders of Your salvation in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your gathered people that, faithfully eating and drinking the body and blood of Your Son, we may go forth to proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth.

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.**

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.

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Grant us peace

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)*

"Take My Life and Let It Be" LSB 784

1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be

3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose,
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,

It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us”

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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.**

+ Sending +

Prayer

Benediction

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680

1 Thine the amen, Thine the praise, alleluia
angels raise
Thine the everlasting head, Thine the
breaking of the bread
Thine the glory, Thine the story, Thine the
harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up,
lifted up.

2 Thine the life eternally, Thine the promise
let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree, all the earth
on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing, gone the
pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing, gone the dying what was
loss lifted high.

3 Thine the truly, Thine the yes, Thine the
table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee, Thine the
glory yet to be

Thine the ringing and the singing, then the
end of all the war
Thine the living, Thine the loving evermore,
evermore.

4 Thine the kingdom, Thine the prize, Thine
the wonderful surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise, Then the
justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory, Thine the story, then the
welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast,
at Thy feast.

5 Thine the glory in the night, no more
dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree, Then the
Lamb eternally
Then the holy, holy, holy celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness
only Thee, only Thee.

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

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor
demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither
height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to
separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Ted Zimmerman
Liturgist	Kevin Mathison
Lay Reader	Sharon Cornelius
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Communion Assistants	Andrea Clark, Paula Schweiger, Mike Newton, Rebecca Vitkus
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Projection Tech	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Clint & Bev Holdsworth
Worship Band	Steve Jeffery, Steve & Judi Rock, Tom Hoff
Children's Church	

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