

Did God Really Say?
“God Just Wants You To Be Happy”

September 10, 2023

As We Gather

God does want us to be happy, doesn't He? But is that all He wants for us? Is it the most important thing He wants for us? The truth is that God is concerned for our eternal joy, and although He is not against our happiness in this life, He is more concerned with our holiness and our faithfulness. The way of the disciple is not self-actualization, but rather self-denial that our lives might give glory to God and further the kingdom.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Goodness of God”

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night

You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God
(Chorus)

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me **(Chorus x 2)**

I will sing of the goodness of God

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Baptism of Bryce Mathison

Prayer

Children Excused to Children's Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Psalm 118:15-24

Shouts of joy and victory

resound in the tents of the righteous:

“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Philippians 3:7-14

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:23-26

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

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

Sermon

"God Just Wants You to Be Happy"

Offering

Musical Offering

"Jesus, Son of God Most High"
Arr. By Joe Cox and Jody Lindh

Sanctuary Choir

*Jesus, Son of God Most High,
Who did in a manger lie,
Who upon the cross did die,
Hear us, Holy Jesus.*

*Make us brave without a fear,
Make us happy, full of cheer,
Sure that You are always near:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.*

*Jesus be with us each day
In our work and in our play,
When we learn and when we pray:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.*

*May we grow from day to day,
Glad to learn Your holy way,
Always ready to obey:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.*

*When we lie asleep at night,
Ever may Your angels bright,
Keep us safe till morning light:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.*

*Jesus, from Your heav'nly throne,
Watching over everyone,
Till our life on earth is done:
Hear us, Holy Jesus.*

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.**

St. John's People and Families

- John & Kristi Clark
- John, Laura Lee, Byron, & Charlee Fitzpatrick
- Shirley Knight
- David, Jill, Markus, & Will Reimler
- Ken & Sharon Tews
- Richie, Natalie, & Violet Allen
- Nathaniel, Josephine, & Fay Dunham
- Tom, Shaley, Jason, & Andrew Duchno
- Bella Ramos, Liliana & Lucas Bennett
- Brian, Casie, Samantha, Liam, & Declan Wood

+ 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.

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)*

“Fade with our Voices”

After all the songs are sung
And our prayers for kingdom come
Did we bring honor to the words we sing?

Chorus

Does our worship have hands
Does it have feet
Does it stand up in the face of injustice
Does our worship bow down
Does it run deep
Is it more than a song that fades with our
voices
Does it fade with our voices?

Lord, it's you we long to please
Make our lives a melody

That we proclaim when we live in Jesus
name

So if we raise our hands high
Let us also reach them out
If we lift our voices up
Let it be the sound of love

Let our worship have hands
Let it have feet
Let it stand up in the face of injustice
Let our worship bow down
Let it run deep
It's more than a song that fades with our
voices
It won't fade with our voices

“Reckless Love”

Before I spoke a word You were singing
over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your
life in me
You have been so so kind to me

Chorus

(And) O the overwhelming never-ending
reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away

O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah

When I was Your foe still Your love fought
for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me

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

“Lead Me, Lord” Arr. John D. Becker

Blessed are the poor in spirit
Longing for their Lord
For God's coming kingdom shall be theirs
Blessed are the sorrowing
For they shall be consoled
And the meek shall come to rule the world

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today

Blest are they who through their lifetimes
Sow the seeds of peace.
All will call them children of the Lord.
Blest are you, though persecuted
In your holy life,
For in heaven, great is your reward.

Blessed are the merciful,
for mercy shall be theirs
And the pure in heart shall see their God
Blest are they whose hunger
only holiness can fill
For I say they shall be satisfied

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today
And lead me, Lord, today

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

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