

“For the Sake of the Gospel”

February 4, 2024

As We Gather

Paul outlines his philosophy of ministry and life. He counts all things as less important to him than following Christ in proclaiming the Gospel. For Paul that meant setting aside his preferences, his culture, and his past if it would help in proclaiming the Gospel. What are we willing to do for the sake of the Gospel in our lives?

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

Verse 1

O Love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in Thee
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

Verse 2

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

Verse 3

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

Verse 4

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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.

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.**

“I Will Not Forget You”

1 Many men will drink the rain
And turn to thank the clouds
Many men will hear You speak
They will never turn a – round

Pre Chorus

But I will not forget You are my God my King
With a thankful heart I bring my offering
And my sacrifice is not what You can give
But what I alone can give to You

Chorus

A grateful heart I give
A thankful prayer I pray
A wild dance I dance before You
A loud song I sing
A huge bell I ring
A life of praise I live before You

2 Many men will pour their gold
And serve a thing that shines
Many men will read Your words
They will never change their minds.

Prayer

Children’s Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? ²² He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

²³ He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. ²⁴ No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. ²⁵ “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. ²⁷ Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and

increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 147:1-11 (Read responsively)

Reader: Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!

People: **The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the exiles of Israel.**

Reader: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

People: **He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.**

Reader: Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.

People: **The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Reader: Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.

People: **He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.**

Reader: He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

People: **His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of the warrior;**

Reader: The LORD delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

¹⁶For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all

possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

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

“For the Sake of the Gospel”

Offering

Musical Offering

*“This Joyful Day”
By Kevin McChesney*

Hand Bells

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

Neill & Pam Barker
Scott, Suzette, & Matthew Heathcote
Jeffery & Cynthia McFarland-Johnson
Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff
Steve & Christy Wood
Jeff, Kristal, Austin, & Ashlyn Broyles
Gantry, Tracy, & Graeden Griffin
Renato Hrg, Miriam Cotto, & Rosie Hrg-Cotto
Thomas, Bronwyn, Keaton, & Emerson Ney
Andrew and Blake Shaw

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

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” LSB 398

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.

2 He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

3 He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;

His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

5 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.

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

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

1 Corinthians 9:19

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Sarah Bartelt
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Projector Tech	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Children's Church Leaders	Debbie Kirkpatrick, Pam Watkins, Joy Dahl
Ushers	Lisa De Young
Worship Band	Thane Knutson, Judi & Steve Rock, Heidi & Chris Newman

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