



a STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE
GOD-LIVED
life

A Life of Hospitality

October 17, 2021



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service today we gather before our heavenly Father to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. May he bless our worship and study today!

For Your Convenience

- Restrooms are available down the hallway on the right.
- If you would like a hearing device to assist you for worship, please speak with one of the ushers.
- The ushers are at the entrance of the sanctuary to answer any other questions you might have.

Today's Focus

The God-lived life is a life of *showing* God's love. Last week, we focused on letting that shine in serving others, doing things for them. In today's worship, the emphasis shifts a bit, and we look at the God-lived life as one that isn't only doing things for others but *opening our lives* to them. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to show what we are all about and share who we are all about. Through hospitality, as messy and dangerous as it can be, relationships are built, and Jesus is shared. Our challenge this week focuses especially *on relationships in our lives that show and share Jesus*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

I Gave My Life for Thee
Christian Worship Hymn 454

I gave my life for thee; My precious blood I shed
That thou might'st ransomed be And quickened from the dead.
I gave my life for thee; Come, give thyself to me!

My Father's home of light, My rainbow-circled throne,
I left for earthly night, For wand'rings sad and lone.
I left it all for thee; Come now and follow me!

I spent long years for thee In weariness and woe
That an eternity Of joy thou mightest know.
I spent long years for thee; Come, spend thy years for me.

I suffered much for thee, More than my tongue may tell,
Of bitt' rest agony, To rescue thee from hell.
I suffered much for thee; Come, bear thy cross with me.

And I have brought to thee Down from my home above
Salvation full and free, My pardon and my love.
Great gifts I brought for thee; Come, bring thy gifts to me.

Oh, let thy life be spent, Thy years for me be giv'n,
As I for thee was sent To bear thee home to heav'n.
I gave my life for thee; Come, give thy life to me.

GATHERING RITE

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

Amen.

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior
Christian Worship Hymn 467; st 1

May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.

Text: Kate B. Wilkinson, 1859–1928, alt.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Heavenly Father, you give us time to use in service to others, including those not yet in the family of believers. We repent for times we have used our time selfishly and not considered how we can show hospitality to others. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior
Christian Worship Hymn 467; st 3

May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing.

Dear Savior Jesus, while we were still sinners, you died for us. You used every moment to live for us and willingly died to serve us with forgiveness and salvation. You involved yourself in the lives of everyone around you. At times, we admit we have failed to reflect that love to those around us and share that love with those who don't know you. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior
Christian Worship Hymn 467; st 4

May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting, self abasing—This is victory!

O Holy Spirit, you give every person a time of grace to come to know Jesus' love. We are sorry for losing our focus on the mission you have given us as your Church and failing to consider how we can share and show your love for strangers. Forgive us and live within us.

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior
Christian Worship Hymn 467; st 6

May his spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him.

ABSOLUTION OF SINS

As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior
Christian Worship Hymn 467; st 2

May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to become one of us to cleanse us and claim us. Give to us the same spirit of hospitality Jesus had to look on each stranger as someone you love, and therefore worthy of our time and concern; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN

May the Mind of Christ My Savior
Christian Worship Hymn 467; st 5

May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 18:1-15

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹ “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.”

But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.” (NIV)

PSALM OF THE DAY

Spoken

Psalm 133-134

Christian Worship page 115

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.

May the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 2:42-47

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (NIV 1984)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Hebrews 13:2

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. “Follow me,” he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’” ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (NIV 1984)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blest Be the Tie that Binds
Christian Worship Hymn 494

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

When here our pathways part,
We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
We hope to meet again.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

From sorrow, toil, and pain
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, abr., alt.

SERMON

Matthew 9:9-13

“Eating with Sinners”

STEWARDSHIP VIDEO

“A Life of Hospitality”

OFFERING

Your offering may be placed in the collection plate at the back as you leave.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You became one of us. Your hospitality knew and knows no bounds. You invited fishermen, a tax collector, people from all walks of life to be your disciples. You welcomed little children and took them up in your arms. You spoke to the woman at the well and offered her living water—forgiveness and life. Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit so that we take that same view of all people we meet. Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Holy Spirit, you have turned our hearts from the darkness of sin and eternal death to the light of life and an eternity in heaven through Jesus Christ alone. You have given us eyes to see our Savior Jesus. Give us eyes to see each person we meet as one for whom our Savior died, and one God loves dearly. Give us the words to speak in love. Grow us in wisdom through our study of your word and grant us peace. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Father, you created us and continue to provide and protect us. Give us the courage and trust to take you at your word. Your word tells us, “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9). Give us the courage to be hospitable to others whether in the family of believers or those not yet in the family of believers. Protect and provide for us and let our generosity overflow to strangers. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Accept our prayers and grant all we need, not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Jesus Christ who lived a perfect life in our place and died for our sins and was raised again.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Spoken

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might:

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Spoken

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Amen. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper is a blessing from God through which he strengthens our faith.

It is also an expression of our faith.

If we have not had the opportunity to talk to you about our beliefs, we ask that you wait before you join us for the Lord's Supper.

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Spoken

**In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for ev'ry people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory, the glory of your people Israel.**

PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

O God of Mercy, God of Might
Christian Worship Hymn 499

O God of mercy, God of might, In love and mercy infinite,
Teach us, as ever in your sight, To live our lives to you.

You sent your Son for all to die That fallen man might live thereby.
Oh, hear us, for to you we cry In hope, O Lord, to you.

Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: To feel for those his blood has bought,
That ev'ry deed and word and thought May work a work for you.

All are redeemed, both far and wide, Since Jesus Christ for all has died;
Grant us the will, and grace provide, To love them all in you.

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care May we each other's burdens share;
May we, where help is needed, there Give help as though to you.

And may your Holy Spirit move All those who live to live in love
Till you receive in heav'n above All those who lived for you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.