

A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP

Friendship Evangelism Sunday

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

May 26, 2024

THEME OF THE DAY: A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP

Christianity at its heart is all about relationships. It's about our relationship with God and our relationships with one another. And it's about how even though we have broken these relationships with our sins, God has fixed them by sending his Son Jesus into the world to accomplish the work of our salvation by his death on the cross.

Worship Leader

Pastor Justin Wilkens

Organist/Pianist

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Acknowledgments

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The Service, Setting One (page 154 in Christian Worship 21)

Hymn: 563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

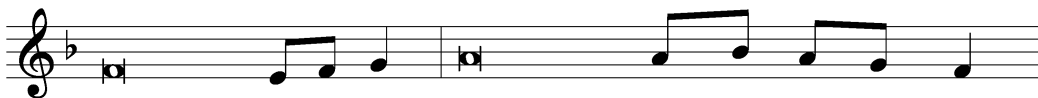
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



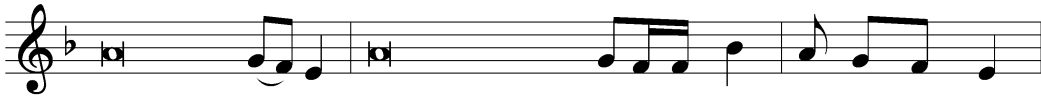
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



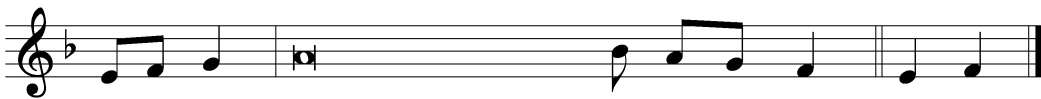
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 45:5-6, 18-25

Our God is a God of love. Even though we should have perished because that's what our sins deserve. God made a plan. A plan to send a Savior into this world to redeem us of our sins and restore our relationship with the Father.

⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other.

Except for me, there is no god.

I will equip you even though you do not know me,

⁶ so that people will know from the rising of the sun
to the place where it sets

that there is no one except me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

¹⁸ This is what the Lord says.

He created the heavens,

He is God!

He formed the earth and made it.

Yes, he established it!

He did not create it to remain empty.

He formed it to be inhabited.

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

¹⁹ I did not speak in secret,

or from someplace in a land of darkness.

I did not say to the descendants of Jacob,

“Seek me in the midst of chaos.”

I, the Lord, am speaking in righteousness.

I am declaring what is right.

²⁰ Gather! Come! Draw near together,

you survivors from the nations.

They have no knowledge—

those who are lifting up their idols of wood
and praying to a god that cannot save.

²¹ Make an announcement and come close.

Let them consult together.

Who made this known ahead of time?

From time past who announced it?

Was it not I, the Lord?

There is no god except me,
a righteous God and Savior.

There is no one except me.

²² Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth,
because I am God,
and there is no other.

²³ I have sworn by myself.

From my mouth a righteous word has gone out,
and it will not return unfulfilled.

Indeed, to me every knee will bow,
and every tongue will swear allegiance.

²⁴ “Only in the Lord,” they will say of me,
“Only in the Lord is there true righteousness and strength.”
To him they will come and be ashamed—

all those who are angry at him.

²⁵ In the Lord, all the descendants of Israel will be justified.

They will be praised by him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day: 62- In front of hymnal: In God Alone My Soul Can Find Rest and Peace

Second Reading

Romans 5:6–11

St. Paul teaches us the depth of God's love. While we were his enemies, God sent his son to die for us so that would have a restored relationship with Him.

⁶ For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸ But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹ And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

CW 161



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

John 14:1–6

Jesus was the fulfillment of God's plan to save us. And now through Jesus we have someone who is preparing a place for us in heaven and who has given us access to the Father.

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴ You know where I am going, and you know the way." ⁵ "Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day: 579 His Mercy Is More

Sermon: Romans 5:6-11

Stand

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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . . here name the person]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering

Offering Hymn: 812 Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor

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.**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through 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.

Hymn: 813 He Will Hold Me Fast

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

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Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 68, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,854.90, Given \$1,296.30. **To God be the glory!**

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