

Sunday, May 2, 2021 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Marty Martens

Music – Angie Johnson

Lay Reader & Children’s Message – Heather Erickson

Audio/Live stream – Rod Scholten

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Fountain of living water,

C: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen

P: Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace; by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: Amen

OPENING SONG “DO LORD”

**Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Way beyond the blue**

**I’ve got a home in glory, land that out-shines the sun,
I’ve got a home in glory, land that out-shines the sun,
I’ve got a home in glory, land that out-shines the sun,
Way beyond the blue**

**God has claim me as his child, he’ll claim you too!
God has claim me as his child, he’ll claim you too!
God has claim me as his child, he’ll claim you too!
Since we believe God always acts first!**

**Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Way beyond the blue**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: ACTS 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Response: R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31 (Responsive Reading)

R: From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the Lord give praise!
May your hearts live forever!**

R: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

C: **For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**

R: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

C: **Their descendants shall serve the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

R: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Response: R: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE - Heather Erickson

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 15:1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON – Pastor Marty

HYMN OF THE DAY “HERE I AM TO WORSHIP”

**Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes let me see.**

Beauty that made this heart adore you hope of a life spent with you.

(Chorus)

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that You're my God

Altogether lovely, altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,

You're glorious in heaven above, yes You are,

Humbly You came to this Earth You created, All for love's sake became poor.

(Chorus)

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that You're my God

Altogether lovely, altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.

I'll never know how much it cost, to see my sin up on that cross,

I'll never know how much it cost, to see my sin up on that cross.

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross,

No I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross.

(Chorus)

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down

Here I am to say that You're my God

Altogether lovely, altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me.

So Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that you're my God.

PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION:

P: Hear us, O God C: Your mercy is great

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

BLESSING

P: *Go in Peace and Serve the Lord*

C: *Thanks be to God*

CLOSING SONG 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that He is with me, Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust Him more!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

DISMISSAL

P: *Go in Peace and Serve the Lord*

C: *Thanks be to God*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday, May 8th – 9:00 am.-12:00 noon - Cleaning Parsonage, ALL are welcome!

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning May 16th – Youth Time - 9:30 am. before church service.