

Home Service for July 6, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

The Kingdom of God has come near. Draw near to God.

Call to Worship:

What do we have to boast about? The cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And what does this cross mean for us? Everything is a new creation.

Opening Prayer:

God of endings and beginnings, we thank you for always starting anew with us. When we find ourselves at our wits' end, at the end of our rope, at the end of our patience, or even at the end of our hope, you are there. You find us and bring us into your new beginning, again and again. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, Fountain of all blessing and grace: we confess there are times when we look at our work, at our accomplishments, with prideful ambition as if we were the source of our abilities and gifts. At other times, we look at our efforts with disgust and regret, as if your gifts in us are not enough. Forgive our pride and our despair, Holy God. Renew in us a humble trust in your guiding hand and a hope that your grace is sufficient for every step. Give us the courage to begin again, to jump into a new start with you and one another. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen

Words of Assurance:

Beloved children: Hear and believe the good news, God's mercy and peace are upon you now and always.

Read Psalm 30

I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

² Lord my God, I called to you for help,

and you healed me.

³ You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

⁴ Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

⁶ When I felt secure, I said,
“I will never be shaken.”

⁷ Lord, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain^[c] stand firm;
but when you hid your face,
I was dismayed.

⁸ To you, Lord, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:

⁹ “What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?”

¹⁰ Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
Lord, be my help.”

¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

Prayers of the People:

Patient and Loving God, we are just completing a national holiday in which we just celebrated freedom and independence. We heard the mighty strains of marching bands and saw the banners unfurled. Our hearts were moved by the events. Yet you have called us to remember that it is you who gives true independence and hope in your healing and restoring love. The oppression of disease, poverty, terrorism pours into our lives and lays claim to our spirits. We feel as though we are again in bondage. Free us, O Lord. Open our hearts to receive your healing words of comfort and hope. Enable us to be people who offer compassion in the presence of sorrow; hope in the presence of desolation; light in

the presence of darkness. Walk with us and strengthen us. Give us spirits of eagerness to serve and witness to your love. As we have brought names of those near and dear to us to this time of worship, asking your healing mercies and blessings, help us to remember that we stand in need of those blessings as well. Help us to receive the blessings and to use the gifts which we have been given to serve you in all that we say, think, and do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

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

Read the Lesson: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.^[a]
² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents^[b] of silver, six thousand shekels^[c] of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³ Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed’!” ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Read the Epistle Lesson: Galatians 6:1-10

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Read the Gospel Lesson: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to

you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’

¹⁶ “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Message

I am going to be using verses one through ten of our Epistle lesson today. I believe we can summarize them into this statement: Do not become weary in doing good especially to the family of believers and also even for all of humanity.

When you think about it, greatness in God’s kingdom differs greatly compared to the standards of greatness in this world. All too often we only look at the numbers. The bigger the numbers the greater the success. Often, the mega-churches grab the headlines from our media in our success-oriented society. But God’s measure of greatness is the total opposite. Jesus reminded his disciples not to worry about their importance or standing or success according to men. For he told them that whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. Think about the ranking of a slave, it is at the very bottom. Truly greatness in God’s kingdom is to continue to do good no matter what and do it with humility.

It sounds strange that Paul felt the need to encourage good among believers, within the church, but he was speaking to them about spiritual goodness among believers. We all know that sin happens. It happens in every congregation. It happens in everyone’s life for all have sinned. All have fallen short. Not one sinner is better than anyone else. Each of us is accountable for own shortcomings. We must examine our own actions. For there is no pride in being sinful and sin should truly humble us when we recognize it in our lives.

“Do not become weary in doing good” especially to the family of believers. Yes, even in the family of believers, even in the church, there is going to be sin. There are going to be spiritual needs that need to be met. Our text is concerned with the spiritual far more than earthly needs of the believers. Our desire in “doing good” will also want to concentrate on helping our fellow believers with their spiritual needs. After truthfully looking at our lives and repenting, hopefully than we can help so they too may see their sin, repent, and live!

As believers, we should want to be forgiven and to forgive. We have the example of Jesus to strengthen us. He told us to bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. We are to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. So be forgiving for it is a good thing and “Do not become weary in doing good”. Do you remember the disciples asking if forgiving 7 or 70 times was enough. If you are keeping track of your forgiveness for others than you are not really being forgiving. God’s love forgives and forgets them.

Why are we supposed to be so forgiving? Forgiveness reveals the love of Jesus for all of mankind, especially the family of believers. Forgiveness brings the family of believers, God’s church, together with a certain sense of joy and rejoicing. The world should be able to see in each of us the forgiveness of our loving Lord in our treatment of the family of believers. “Doing good” by forgiving reveals the light of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let your light, your forgiveness shine to the glory of God.

“Do good to all people.” “All people” goes beyond friends and family. “All people” includes those who are not believers, those who have done wrong. We are not to give up on our fellow man. We are to help them at every opportunity.

Even though, God’s Word was written thousands of years ago. God’s Word is still alive and active for our lives today. Looking around we may find it difficult to love those who do not love God. We may find it difficult to help those who will not help others. But we are reminded that God’s love for others needs to start within us. God’s love grows in us as His word is planted in our ears, minds, and hearts. This is God’s encouragement for us to begin each day with God’s love and grace planted and growing in our hearts.

We are reminded that our hearts of stone have been miraculously been changed into hearts of flesh by the grace of our Lord God Almighty. Our loving Lord needs us to continue to have a heart and a hearing that is willing to listen and to follow. So, what are we to do? What are we to do with this faith that God has so graciously and freely given us?

Our Lord asks each of us to be the shining examples for those close to us and for the rest of the world around us. We are to show love to those who are not so

loveable or even likeable. For this is a sign of a child of God, love. For even unbelievers know how to love their family and friends. More is expected of us. We are called to love our enemies, and to do good to them. When doing so, let us remember that God does not treat us as our sins deserve, instead God shows us mercy, love and grace. May our actions toward others always be action of love, for when they do people will know that we are Christians by our love.

Our gracious God and loving Lord shows his kindness even to the “ungrateful and wicked”. Therefore, we should not become weary in doing good. Do good especially for the family of believers, our church family. We all have times when we need spiritual help and encouragement, and who is in a better position to offer the spiritual help and encouragement than the church. Do good also for all of humanity even to those who stand opposed to God and his word. For all need to see God’s love. Only the Children of God, which includes you and I, can reveal God’s love to an unbelieving world and may we do this every day and do this all for the glory of God. Amen.

Benediction:

Beloved children, you are blessed and sent out into the world to share God’s good love with everyone you meet. Let us not grow weary of doing what is right. Go and work for the good of all. Go in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit to do all the good you can for all the people you can in all the ways you can for as long as you can. Amen.