



The Gospel of John 3:16 speaks about God's sacrificial and faithful love for the entire world alienated from God, that is, all humankind.

We, who have experienced the greatest love, the love that God has for us in Christ, are also eager to follow His command to "love one another, even as I have loved you." That love moves us to speak out to others about Him, and to share it with others, as we speak—and show through our lives—what God's love means for us.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

SHARING OF PEACE: Wherever we are - we greet one another with the peace of Christ.

OPENING HYMN: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (LSB 790)

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief

Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen
Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

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THE INVOCATION:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: When you were baptized, your old sinful nature was buried with Christ when He died. When God the Father brought Him back to life again, you were given His wonderful new life to enjoy. As we are in Dr. Luther's Catechism: by the power of Baptism, our old self should be drowned and die by daily contrition and repentance and a new person daily come forth and arise. Open your heart to God and confess your sin that you might so arise!

(We confess our sins. Silence for reflection)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. 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 the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the

Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,^[a] ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered^[a] once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which^[b] he went and proclaimed^[c] to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because^[d] they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL: *John 14:15-21*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,^[a] to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be^[b] in you. 18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN: Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service (LSB 848)

- 1 Lord, whose love through humble service
 Bore the weight of human need,
 Who upon the cross, forsaken,
 Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
 We, Your servants, bring the worship
 Not of voice alone, but heart,
 Consecrating to Your purpose
 Ev’ry gift that You impart.

- 2 Still Your children wander homeless;
 Still the hungry cry for bread;
 Still the captives long for freedom;
 Still in grief we mourn our dead.

As, O Lord, Your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till Your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness,
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving,
Your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to Your service,
Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom
May Your mercy know and live.

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SERMON: "Our Life Is Loving Jesus" John 14:15-21

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

P: In the words of the Apostles' Creed we confess with confidence and joy the faith into which we are baptized:

C: 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.

THE PRAYERS:

P: O Lord, God Almighty, You are remembered by Your great deeds in the history of the human race.

C: In times of trouble You delivered Your chosen people from the hands of their enemies.

P: Through Your Son, You relieved many of their physical and spiritual ills.

C: For Your great power, displayed both past and present, accept our glorious praise.

P: We confess, O Lord, that we have not always extolled Your name among our fellow citizens.

C: The results of Your power among us have given us hope in our trials and tribulations.

P: Even so, we have often failed to give an account to others for the reason of the hope that is within us.

C: We rejoice in Your mercy, which gives us the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: Being righteous, He gave His life for us, the unrighteous.

C: You have merited our love; yet we have failed to show our love by keeping Your commandments. Forgive us our failures, O Lord.

P: Send Your Holy Spirit that He may help us to express our love for You in word and deed.

C: May He abide with us that we may walk in newness of life.

P: May the lonely experience your presence, and the sick Your healing.

C: May the fainthearted be filled with courage to extol Your name.

[here we offer the special intercessions of our church family. Each petition will conclude]

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: O Lord, our God, as we recall the obedient life and life-giving death of Your Son for our salvation, we pray You to strengthen our faith and to make our hearts bold, that we may not fear but address our prayers to You in all humility. Hear us on behalf of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, who even now stands before You on our behalf, pleading our cause with His own blood, until that day when we are delivered from the changes and chances of this mortal life and stand before You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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:

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

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN: Go, My Children, with My Blessing. (LSB 922)

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
 Never alone.
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
 You are My own.
 In My love's baptismal river
 I have made you Mine forever.
 Go, My children, with My blessing—
 You are My own.

- 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
 Here you learned how much I love you,
 What I can cure.
 Here you heard My dear Son's story;
 Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.

- 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Closer to Me;
 Grow in love and love by serving,
 Joyful and free.
 Here My Spirit's power filled you;

Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace.

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POST-SERVICE MUSIC

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