

*TODAY'S FOCUS*

Rev. Randy Ledbetter continues our summer-long teaching series through the 1 Corinthians, "Eagerly." Our real legacy is not how much we know, but how well we **love**--in Jesus' name. Let's let God's love in Christ build us up so we strengthen and encourage others!

**+ COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING! +**

*LSB 790 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY*      sts. 1–2, 4

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?

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.

## *INVOCATION*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## *CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION*

**P** Since the beginning of time, God has revealed His will to seek and to save that which was lost. No matter how often we have entered the gates of God's place, whether often or rarely, because of sin, we are all lost, on our own, and helpless. Let us therefore approach God in humility to receive His forgiveness.

**C** **O God, I believe in You; O Lord, I trust Your promise to save me. Forgive me for my sins in thought, word, and deed. Come to me, though I am not worthy. Come to me with Your promise, with Your touch of forgiveness, healing, help, and life. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**P** God has come to you in grace and mercy. Upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of the Word 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.

**C** **Amen.**

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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*SALUTATION*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY*

**P** Let us pray.

Loving God, by Your Word You call forth everything out of nothing. Grant that we who have been called to new life in Christ Jesus continue to hear and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**+ WORD +**

*OLD TESTAMENT READING*

Ecclesiastes 1:16–18 NIV

1:16 I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.”

<sup>17</sup> Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

<sup>18</sup> For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*EPISTLE*

1 Corinthians 8 NIV

<sup>8:1</sup> Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. <sup>3</sup> But whoever loves God is known by God.

<sup>4</sup> So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

<sup>7</sup> But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and

since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. <sup>8</sup> But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

<sup>9</sup> Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup> So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 18:1–7 NIV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18:1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

<sup>2</sup> He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom

of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

<sup>6</sup> “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. <sup>7</sup> Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*LSB 392 GOD LOVES ME DEARLY*

1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me. **Refrain**

**ref** **Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

2 I was in slav'ry, Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working To make me free. **Refrain**

3 He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus And set me free. **Refrain**

4 Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. **Refrain**

**ref** **Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, Loves even me.**

5 Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You All my life long. **Refrain**

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*MESSAGE: EAGERLY, PART 8: EAGER TO BUILD UP*

1 Corinthians Study

*APOSTLES' CREED*

**© 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.**

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH*

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Eternal Father, O God our Creator and Redeemer, we thank You that You have drawn us to Yourself by the power of Your Word and our Savior Jesus Christ, our Lord. For Your promises of life and salvation, we give You praise and adoration as our God and Lord. Keep us in steady faith in You, guide our steps in the ways of Your life-giving Word, and make us to be ever more Your people of hope, love, and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, as You strengthened Your early apostles by Your very presence, so give strength and courage to church workers who continue in Your service to this day. Guard and protect them from the assaults of the devil and bless their service in Your Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, give Your blessing and guidance to all in authority and the service of government in our land and throughout the world. Cause them to pursue righteousness and justice in all their dealings that we may live in prosperity and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,



**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give healing and comfort, O Lord, to all who are in trouble, danger, or illness, [*especially . . .*]. Sustain their courage and faith in Your mighty care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*Individual petitions may be added.*

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **+ SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +**

### *PREFACE*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### *PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the

salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

#### *LORD'S PRAYER*

**C 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.**

*WORDS OF OUR LORD*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**+ HYMN OF COMMUNION +**

*LSB 452 O PERFECT LIFE OF LOVE*

sts. 1, 4, 7

1 O perfect life of love!  
All, all, is finished now,  
All that He left His throne above  
To do for us below.

4 And on His thorn-crowned head  
And on His sinless soul  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid  
That He might make us whole.

7 Yet work, O Lord, in me  
As Thou for me hast wrought;  
And let my love the answer be  
To grace Thy love has brought.

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### *BENEDICTION*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

### *LSB 550 LAMB OF GOD*

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod,  
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

**ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

2 Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud,  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

**ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

3 I was so lost, I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod,  
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

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