

AS WE GATHER

As we again celebrate our nation's independence, we will hear much about freedom. As our Luke study reaches Chapter 5, we know that true freedom is God's gift-- especially the gift of forgiveness and freedom from sin's entanglement. Look for that as Jesus calls his first followers and shows that the focus of His Kingdom work will be to "catch" people and offer forgiveness and restoration to the sick in body or spirit.

+ WORSHIP THE LORD +

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Genesis 1:1–10, 20–21; Galatians 5:1, 16, adapted

P For freedom Christ has set us free;

C **stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

P Walk by the Spirit,

C **and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

P For the sake of God's gift of freedom through the sacrifice of His Son, our Savior Jesus, let us freely chose to come and worship the Lord with joy and confidence.

LSB 609 JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE

sts. 1, 4–5

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Galatians 5:1, 16

- P** Eternal Father, in Your unfailing love You sent Jesus to us,
and He loved, served, and received us--even when we were
yet sinners. It is because of our sin and Your gracious
response to it in Jesus that we come to You today in
confession of our faults and failings.
- C** **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
neighbors 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 Our eternal Father is strong to save and has done that in giving His only-begotten Son into this once-perfect world to be the only needed sacrifice for our sins so we and all creation may be renewed, redeemed, and restored in relationship with Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P For freedom Christ has set us free;

C stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

P Walk by the Spirit,

C and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

LSB 609 JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE sts. 6–7

6 Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of all nations, we thank You for our free land and the liberties we treasure. Guide Your people by Your Spirit that this nation may set an example to the world of justice and freedom. From the blessings of the past to the present, grant all future prosperity according to Your will. Give all peoples of all lands and nations faith in You that glory may be brought to Your name and eternal blessings to all people throughout Your created world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51:1–12 NIV

¹For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

²Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your

sight;

so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 5 NIV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifth chapter.

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

^{5:1} One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

¹⁷ One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

¹⁸ Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

²¹ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

²² Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”

²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

³¹ Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

³³ They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

³⁴ Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

³⁶ He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. ³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will

run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. ³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

LSB 688 “COME, FOLLOW ME,” THE SAVIOR SPAKE sts. 1–3, 5

- 1 “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake, “All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide, Take My example for your guide.
- 2 “I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.
- 3 “My heart abounds in lowliness, My soul with love is glowing;
And gracious words My lips express, With meekness overflowing.
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all, To God I yield, on Him I call.
- 5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suff’ring be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain The crown of heav’nly life obtain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–77; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–96

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SERMON (by Pastor Randy Ledbetter)

Luke Study, part 4

APOSTLES’ CREED

Apostles’ Creed

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.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

- ☐ What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the
name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of
the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all
His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O
Jerusalem.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the church of God, this nation, all nations, and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Father, You have given all we need for this body and life with Your creation and providential care. Help us see from the earthly to the eternal the greatest gift You have given in Your Son that we may be and remain forgiven and free.

P We give You thanks for this land in which we are citizens, even as we are assured of our citizenship in heaven. Bless our country that Your wisdom, justice, compassion, and mercy be unveiled through those placed in leadership. Be with all nations in the world that wars may end, the greater good of all people be worked for, and peace had among all.

P As You have given humanity, the crown of Your creation, dominion over all You have made, enable and empower us to be good and faithful stewards of everything we are blessed to have, including our time, our treasures, our abilities, and the very earth with which we are blessed. Grant that our work, vocations, and relationships honor and glorify You in all we do.

P We pray for those who face suffering and strife in body, mind, and spirit [especially . . .]. Grant them healing and comfort according to Your will. As we face the consequences of sin and the troubles of temptation around us each day, draw us near to our Savior Jesus Christ, who has set us free with full forgiveness through His victory over the cross and the grave, until that Last Day when all things will be made new.

(Additional petitions may follow.)

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

C **Amen.**

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

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.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty

Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose power and salvation transcends the nations and kingdoms of the world. Lead us to Your heavenly kingdom, where in divine glory and freedom from sin His name is worshiped and glorified. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, with the saints gathered before Your throne from every nation, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

**☐ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

☐ Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth. Even when creation rebelled against You, You gave Your only-begotten Son into death that we might be saved and set free from the lasting consequences of sin and eternal death. By Your Spirit, prepare our hearts to receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in faith.

☐ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

THE 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."

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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**

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**

Text: Twila Paris, 1958

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+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

HWC 571 MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE

sts. 1,2,4

- 1 My country 'tis of thee Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing
Land where my fathers died Land of the pilgrims' pride
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring
- 2 My native country thee Land of the noble free
Thy name I love
I love thy rocks and rills Thy woods and templed hills
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above
- 4 Our fathers' God to Thee Author of liberty
To Thee we sing
Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light
Protect us by Thy might
Great God our King

Text: Henry Carey | Samuel Francis Smith

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HWC 572 AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America America God shed His grace on thee

And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea

2 O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness
America America God mend thine ev'ry flaw
Confirm thy soul in self control
Thy liberty in law

3 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life
America America may God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And ev'ry gain divine

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears
America America God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea

Text: Katharine Lee Bates | Samuel Augustus Ward

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift. As Christ has forgiven us and set us free, we rejoice in our independence from all we ever need fear. Grant Your holy and life-giving Spirit that we may serve You as we seek to end divisions, overcome prejudice, and seek justice. Grant that we live in peace with one another through the peace You have restored in our relationship with You; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES

Galatians 5:1, 16

P For freedom Christ has set us free;

C **stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

P Walk by the Spirit,

C **and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

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.

📀 Amen.

HWC 345 BLESSED ASSURANCE

sts. 1, , 2

1 Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood **(CHORUS)**

CHORUS

**This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

2 Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst at my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love **(CHORUS)**

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