

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a special service series where we look at the Christian virtues, also called The Fruit of the Holy Spirit. They are the backbone of our faith in Jesus Christ. He embodied these virtues and passed them on to His disciples, when He breathed the Holy Spirit into them.

When we strive to live by these virtues through spiritual disciplines we allow the Spirit to transform our lives and bring miracles we have never even dreamed of. Faith is trust in the power of God in Christ to use us as conduits for a miraculous and abundant life.

Inspirational Song: “*There Is Peace in Christ*” with Claire Crosby

P: This is the day that the Lord has made!

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

NEW MEMBER LITANY

P: We are here this morning to welcome these new members into Jesus’ community of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. We are not a building, but the gathered family of God. We are brothers and sisters in Christ, given this new identity through our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we welcome you as members of this family in the larger body of Christ. And so we ask, do you desire to join the membership of Redeemer? If so please answer: “We do.”

C: We do.

P: I ask the congregation to stand and join these new members in confessing our faith: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

C: We believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C: We believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

P: Having confessed our faith together, we now welcome you into the family of our congregation and into the ministry of the church. As active followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread his Good News. We encourage you to accept that call through your involvement in the church.

C: We welcome you as children of God, growing closer to God and each other through worship and learning, laughing and playing. We welcome you as fellow workers in God’s kingdom, inviting you to grow with us in our faith, reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, as you called James and John, Simon and Andrew to fish for people, so you have called us to serve you with our own talents and resources. We thank you for bringing to us these new members of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. You have told us that wherever two or more are gathered in your name, there you are with them. Help us, we pray, to see and feel that presence that others may come to know you through their interactions with us.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN: “*Let Streams of Living Justice*”#661

APOSTOLIC 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.

MORNING PRAYER

P: Please join with me in lifting our prayers to God.

C: No God! No peace! Know God, know peace! Today we bow to our Creator and ask for Peace. Peace in

our souls! Peace in our congregation and our nation! Peace between nations. Peace between man and woman, peace between parent and child, peace between brother and sister. Peace with justice. The Peace of Christ above all peace. Amen.

P: Let us hear the Holy Spirit's Voice speak to us today!

Karen Temple: A reading from Genesis 1: 1-3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a Wind/Spirit/Ruah of God swept over the face of the waters. The god said, "let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Word of God Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord,

'You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.'*

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose gods multiply their sorrows;*

their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

SECOND READING Romans 15: 5-13

Karen Temple: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess* you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Word of God Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*" (blue hymnal)#612

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: Hear the Good News as proclaimed by John chapter 14.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate,* the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "*We Are Made for Peace and Joy*" Pastor Stahlberg

HYMN OF THE DAY *“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”*

*I’ve got peace like a river; I’ve got peace like a river;
I’ve got peace like a river, in my soul. (repeat)*

*I’ve got joy like a fountain; I’ve got joy like a fountain;
I’ve got joy like a fountain, in my soul. (repeat)*

*I’ve got love like an ocean; I’ve got love like an ocean;
I’ve got love like an ocean, in my soul. (repeat)*

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe God, a divine presence, gentle and loving, the ground of our being. We believe Jesus, who embodied the love of God, and who urged his followers to express that same love in their daily lives. We believe the Holy Spirit, as God’s continuing presence in our world, surrounding us with compassion. We believe the church is the Body of Christ where people gather to praise and learn about Christ, to share our concern for one another, and to bring justice and healing to all of God’s Creation. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

P: Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer. Merciful God,
C: Hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let’s share Christ’s peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Prayer

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your love and goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Remember us into your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: In Christ’s presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. All are welcome.

COMMUNION MUSIC “*I’ve Got Peace Like a River*” (music only)..... by Diane Nicklas

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The God of peace and joy, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN “*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*”#561

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Be the peace and joy you want to see in the world.

C: Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PEACE (*You may join hands.*)

C: My peace I give unto you. It’s a peace that the world cannot give. It’s a peace that the world cannot understand. Peace to know, peace to live. My peace I give unto you.