

Celebrations!

Congregational Study "Christian" (Week 6 - Angry Birds)

Sunday, March 18, 2018 - 10:45 a.m.

As We Gather

Is our familiarity with the parable of the Lost Son(s), causing us to hear it and yet still miss its depth of meaning for our life? How would Jesus' earliest hearers understand the parable? God could not love you more than he already does. There's nothing you can do to cause him to love you less. This is true for every person on earth.

Welcome & Community Greeting

Opening Song (Remain standing) "In Christ Alone"

Getty/Townend

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found He is my
2. In Christ a - lone Who took on flesh full - ness of
3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay Light of the
4. No guilt in life no fear in death this is the

light my strength my song This cor - ner stone this sol - id
God in help - less Babe This gift of love and righteous -
world by dark - ness slain Then burst - ing forth in glor - ious -
pow'r of Christ in me From Life's first cry to fin - al

ground firm through the fier - cest drought and storm What heights of love what depths of
ness scorned by the ones He came to save 'Til on that cross as Je - sus
day up from the grave He rose a - gain And as He stands in vic - to -
breath Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny No pow'r of hell no scheme of

peace when fears are stilled when striv - ings cease My com - fort -
died the wrath of God was sat - is - fied for ev - 'ry
ry man sin's curse has lost its grip on me For I am
can ev - er pluck me from His hand Til He re -

er my All in all here in the love of Christ I stand.
sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live.
His and He is mine bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ
turns or calls me home here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father, C: who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing,
L: in the name of the Son, C: in whom we have redemption through His blood,
L: in the name of the Spirit, C: who is the guarantee of our eternal inheritance. Amen.

Baptism *(Please be seated)* Bryn Elizabeth & Nora Ann Nix



Baptismal Hymn “See This Wonder in the Making”

LSB 593

1 See this wonder in the making:
God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping,
His to be, awake or sleeping.

3 Far more tender than a mother,
Far more caring than a father,
God, into Your arms we place them,
With Your love and peace embrace them.

Gathering Prayer *(Please stand)*

Our Shared Confession of God

The 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.

Children’s Message *(Please be seated)*

Song “The Gospel Song”

Jones/Kauflin

Soloist sings first time, then cong. sings 2X



Ho - ly God in love be came per - fect
Man to bear my blame On the cross He took my
sin By His death I live a - gain

✠ God's Word for Us ✠

Epistle

“Rooted and Grounded in Love”

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel *(Please stand)*

“Two Sons”

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹And [Jesus] said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

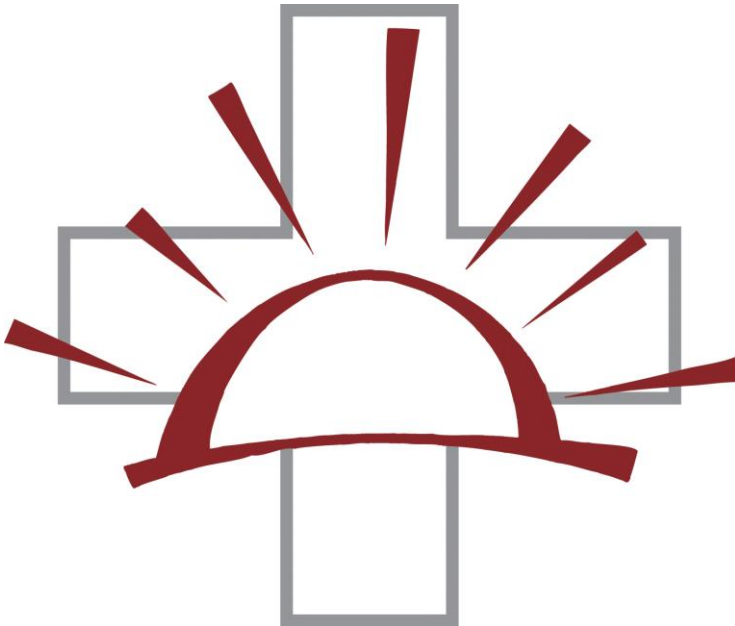
¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Song *(Please be seated)* **“Our Father, We Have Wandered”**

- 1 Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from Your face;
In foolishness have squandered Your legacy of grace.
But now in exile dwelling, we rise in fear and shame,
As distant but compelling, we hear You call our name.
- 2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust, to You.
In haste You come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us, with calf and robe and ring.
- 3 O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease,
Stretch out Your hand of blessing, in pardon and in peace.



1) God is in control of _____
_____ all people in heaven and on earth.

¹³ *“With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.*

¹⁴ *If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open.*

²³ *He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.*

-Job 12:13-14, 23

2) No one is able to live up to _____.

² *God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³ They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.*

-Psalm 53:2-3

3) If we are to live the life of a Christian, we need Christ _____.

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:*

-Romans 3:21-22

4) To truly believe and understand something, _____.

¹ *Then Job replied to the Lord... ³ “Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know... ⁵ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. ⁶ Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”*

-Job 42:1, 3, 5-6

5) Christians seek to believe and understand _____.

¹⁴ *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

-Ephesians 3:14, 17-19

6) Christians seek to believe and understand _____.

⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

-1 John 4:8

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✝ Thanking Him with Our Lives ✝

Pastoral Greeting & Rite of Fellowship

(Welcome! Please add your name to the fellowship pad.)

Gathering of Offerings

(As an act of worship and thanksgiving, we offer to God what He has first given to us: the first and best of our lives, time, talents and financial gifts.

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Special Music

“Arise My Soul Arise

Diane Stebbe-Soloist

✝ Calling Upon Him in Confession and Prayer ✝

Confession & Absolution *(Please stand)*

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

C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! Against you have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

P: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

C: The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

P: Almighty God, in His kindness, has given His Son to redeem you through Jesus' death and resurrection! In the waters of Baptism, He has washed you of your sin and even now calls you to return anew to His mercies. As a servant of Christ 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.

Prayers of the Church & the Lord's Prayer

L: Lord remember us in 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.

✠ Sent with His Blessing ✠

Blessing

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **May the name of the Lord be praised!**

L: The blessing of almighty God—Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit—remain with you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

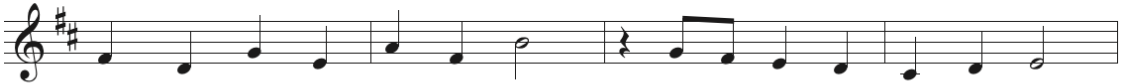
Sending Hymn

“We Are His Disciples”

Emily & Tony Spelde



Je sus gives the com - mand to love as _____ He loves us.
Lo - ving one and _____ all as He first _____ loved _____ us
Let no debt re - main ex - cept love for one and all
Shine our light burning bright re - flect our God's end less love.



As Christ loved us we should love as our Lord sent from a - bove
Drawn to You in joy and strife, Je - sus our true source of life
He loved us so we should show, Je - sus' love so all may know
His com - pas - sion love and grace show to all the hu - man race



Je sus gives the com - mand to love as _____ He loves us.
Lo - ving one and _____ all as He first _____ loved _____ us
Let no debt re - main ex - cept love for one and all
Shine our light burning bright re - flect our God's end - less love.



By this it will show that we _____ are _____ His di - sci - ples

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?
The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

—Psalm 121:1, 8