NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Christian and Homosexuality—Part Two

AS WE GATHER

Our world enjoys labeling people. Whether by skin color, gender, economic status, ethnic background, political affiliation, sexual orientation, age, or whatever else it may be, labels are popular. This sort of labeling divides people into categories and causes much strife and argument. There was labeling going on in Colossae as well: Greek, Jew, circumcised, uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free. But in Colossians, Paul gives us a label that we share and a label that leads not to divisive evil but to amazing generosity and love. Paul writes, “You have been raised with Christ.” Imagine that. He doesn’t say that you will one day in the future be raised with Christ (although that is also true), he says, “You HAVE been raised with Christ.” That is the label we are marked with in Holy Baptism. This comes to us by grace and calls forth from us a life abundant with generosity.

Today we focus especially on the label of homosexuality and our Christian response—Here we see both Law and Gospel, warning and grace.
GATHERING SONG

BETTER IS ONE DAY

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

CHORUS: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,
Than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
to find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
to find You in the place Your glory dwells. CHORUS

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted, and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You, to You. CHORUS

※ PREPARATION ※

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG GRACE LIKE RAIN

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see so clearly

CHORUS: Hallelujah grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away (They're washed away)

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed CHORUS

INSTRUMENTAL

When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing Your praise Than when we'd first begun CHORUS X2

Hallelujah yeah Hallelujah yeah
Hallelujah yeah oh yeah
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
They’re washed away
INVOCATION
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 33:20–22
Pastor: Our soul waits for the LORD;
People: He is our help and our shield.
Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him,
People: because we trust in His holy name.
Pastor: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
People: even as we hope in You.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Pastor: Loving God,
People: we confess our alienation from You both by nature and by choice.
Help us to know and believe how much You love us. Let us abide in Your love even as You abide in us always. Heal us with forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.
Pastor: Our dear Holy Trinity in mercy has given the Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus 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.
People: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: I Thessalonians 4:1-10
Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.
It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.
Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more.
EPISTLE: Hebrews 13:1-4

Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-20

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean’, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean’.”

Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?”

He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean’.”
For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man ‘unclean’; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him ‘unclean’.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Larson

SONG OF THE DAY

TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US

LSB 915

SERMON

“To Destroy…To Build and to Plant” 

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Jeremiah 1:9-1

APOSTLES’ CREED

Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
COME AS YOU ARE
Crowder, Maher, Glover

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

CHORUS: (So) Lay down your burdens lay down your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure CHORUS

Come as you are Fall in His arms Come as you are
There's joy for the morning O sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal CHORUS

Come as you are Come as you are Come as you are

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
[Colossians 3:1]
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
[Psalm 136]
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.


Pastor: 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER  Matthew 6:9–13  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.
COME TO THE TABLE

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread;
All who are hungry and thirsty, come and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord’s invitation, receive from His nail scarred hand;
Eat of the bread of salvation, drink of the blood of the Lamb.

JESUS MESSIAH

He became sin, who knew no sin;
that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

CHORUS: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body, the bread; His blood, the wine;
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. CHORUS

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world. CHORUS

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

BEAUTIFUL ONE

Wonderful, so wonderful, is Your unfailing love.
Your cross has spoken mercy over me.
No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart could fully know
how glorious, how beautiful You are.

CHORUS: Beautiful One, I love You, beautiful One, I adore,
beautiful One, my soul must sing.

Powerful, so powerful, Your glory fills the skies,
Your mighty works displayed for all to see.
The beauty of Your majesty awakes my heart to sing.
How marvelous, how wonderful You are. CHORUS

My soul, my soul must sing My soul, my soul must sing
My soul, my soul must sing: Beautiful One!
GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING/SEND OFF OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

BENEDICTION

Pastor:   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.   Numbers 6:24–26

People:   Amen.

CLOSING SONG              FOREVER REIGN
                                             Morgan—Ingram

You are good, You are good, when there’s nothing good in me.
You are love, You are love, on display for all to see.
You are light, You are light, when the darkness closes in.
You are hope, You are hope, You have covered all my sin.
You are peace, You are peace, when my fear is crippling.
You are true, You are true, even in my wandering.
You are joy, You are joy, You’re the reason that I sing.
You are life, You are life, in You death has lost its sting.

CHORUS:  Oh, I’m running to your arms, I’m running to your arms.
         The riches of Your love Will always be enough.
         Nothing compares to Your embrace.
         Light of the world, forever reign.

You are more, You are more, than my words will ever say.
You are Lord, You are Lord, all creation will proclaim.
You are here, you are here, in Your presence I’m made whole.
You are God, You are God; Of all else I’m letting go.   CHORUS

I’m running to your arms, I’m running to your arms.
The riches of Your love Will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace.
Light of the world, forever reign.

My heart will sing, no other Name, Jesus, Jesus.
My heart will sing, no other Name, Jesus, Jesus.   CHORUS

DISMISSAL

Pastor:   Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People:   Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

ORGAN ASSISTANT
Diana Gaide

AGAPE
Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER
Scott Luethy

LECTOR
Larry Nisbet
8:00
Jeanette Nelson
10:00

ACOLYTE
Esther Langness
8:00
Erik Schwerin
10:00

USHERS
Barry Kratzer, Members of the Congregation
8:00
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
10:00

SERVER
Kathy Johnson
10:00

ALTAR GUILD
Phyllis McConnell, Sharon Seible, Laurel Shurtleff

FLOWERS
Arvin & Athenia Michel, in joyful celebration of their 55th anniversary

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Man sees your actions, but God sees your motives.