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.
Kirchenordnung der Kirche in Amerika

クリスチャン

＊PREPARATION＊

PRELUDE  “How Firm a Foundation”  Trey Clegg

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN  “How Firm a Foundation”  LSB 728
Verses 1-3

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.

*KYRIE*

Pastor: O Lord, who by Your promise of a child was Abraham’s shield and great reward,
People: have mercy on us.
Pastor: O Christ, who inspired the faith of Your saints of old,
People: have mercy on us.
Pastor: O Lord, who richly cares and provides for all Your children,
People: have mercy on us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.
HYMN OF PRAISE  “How Firm a Foundation”  Verses 4-5

LSB 728

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
VERSE  Luke 12:32

Pastor:  Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
People:  Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-20

Pastor:  The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.
People:  Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY  “How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord”  LSB 853

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

Pastor:  Let us pray together in Christ Jesus for all people according to their needs.
Loving God, grant us the freedom to let anxiety be. Lord, in Your mercy,
People:  hear our prayer.
Pastor: Loving God, grant us eyes that see and hearts that appreciate Your grace in calling people out of the nothing of darkness into the kingdom of Your beloved Son, Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Loving God, grant us wise and faithful pastors who speak Your truth in love and Your love in truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Loving God, grant us civil leaders in every society that serve for the good of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Loving God, grant healing to the sick and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, [especially . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Other intercessions may be added here… Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Loving God, grant us together with all Your saints life eternal in Your kingdom, which has no end. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.
**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**  “What Wondrous Love is This”  R. Bratt and B. Ligon
Ann Westra, cello
Anita Baresel, piano

**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.

**SACRAMENT**

**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.
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary 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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS


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.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”
“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Duet: Ruthie and Grace Redden, pianists

LSB 770

LSB 915

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.

HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *LSB 802*

DISMISSAL

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

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Benjamin Culli
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.