Trying to do it All—Balancing Life

AS WE GATHER

During the summer, pastor is preaching on topics suggested by members. Today's topic strikes a chord in all of us. We are all so, so busy. How do we balance our lives in a healthy, spiritual way?

Our first lesson gives a big clue: Focus! God promises that when we focus on Him and pursue His ways, everything else falls into balance - all the way to true contentment! That's a promise no TV advertisement can match!

Our Gospel text are words from Jesus Himself. He gives the most succinct definition in the entire Bible of what it means to have a blessed life. Those who pursue ("hunger and thirst") a right relationship with God will be filled up! Those who are peacemakers will be called true sons and daughters of God. Even if you face trouble because of following God you have a Kingdom awaiting you, not just in the future, but now! Are you ready to have a blessed and balanced life? Listen carefully!
PRELUDE

“This Little Light of Mine”
Mark Hayes
Diana Gaide and Cheryl Olson
Four Hand Piano Duet

OPENING SONG

COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP

Doerksen

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.

One day ev’ry tongue will confess You are God.
One day ev’ry knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly love You now.

Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God.
IN VOCATION
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the * Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES  Psalm 71:1–3
Pastor: In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;
People: let me never be put to shame!
Pastor: In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
People: incline Your ear to me, and save me!
Pastor: Be to me a rock of refuge,
People: to which I may continually come;
Pastor: You have given the command to save me,
People: for You are my rock and my fortress.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that 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.
Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.
People: Amen.

* WORD *

INTROIT  Psalm 25:1–2, 11–19, 22
Pastor: To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
People: O my God, in You I trust;
Pastor: let me not be put to shame;
People: let not my enemies exult over me.
Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
People: teach me Your paths.
Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
People: for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.
Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O L ORD, and Your steadfast love,
People: for they have been from of old.
Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O L ORD!
Pastor: Good and upright is the L ORD;
People: therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
Pastor: He leads the humble in what is right,
People: and teaches the humble His way.
Pastor: All the paths of the L ORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
People: for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
Pastor: Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
People: Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in You.
Pastor: May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
People: for I wait for You.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Philippians 4:8-13

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret to being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

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

EPISODE: II Corinthians 12:7-10

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Jenna Lawrenz

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Blest Are They” WOV 764

SERMON

“Through Him” Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Philippians 4:8-13

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.
OFFERING BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM Haugen

Leader: You are salt for the earth, O people:
All: Salt for the Kingdom of God!

Leader: Share the flavor of life, O people:
All: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Chorus (All): Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!

Leader: You are a light on the hill, O people:
All: Light for the City of God!

Leader: Shine so holy and bright, O people:
All: Shine for the Kingdom of God! CHORUS

Leader: You are a seed of the Word, O people:
All: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!

Leader: Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
All: Grow in the Kingdom of God! CHORUS

Leader: We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
All: Bound for the Kingdom of God!

Leader: Love our journey and love our homeland:
All: Love is the Kingdom of God! CHORUS
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.

The Lord’s Supper

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you. [Colossians 3:1]
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
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.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

COME TO JESUS

Chris Rice

Weak and wounded sinner Lost and left to die
O, raise your head, for love is passing by
Come to Jesus Come to Jesus Come to Jesus and live!

And like a newborn baby Don't be afraid to crawl
And remember when you walk Sometimes we fall...so
Fall on Jesus Fall on Jesus Fall on Jesus and live!

Sometimes the way is lonely And steep and filled with pain
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then
Cry to Jesus Cry to Jesus Cry to Jesus and live!

And when the love spills over And music fills the night
And when you can't contain your joy inside, then
Dance for Jesus Dance for Jesus Dance for Jesus and live!

And with your final heartbeat Kiss the world goodbye
Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and
Fly to Jesus Fly to Jesus Fly to Jesus and live!
HE KNOWS MY NAME

I have a Maker,
He formed my heart.
Before even time began,
my life was in His hand.
He knows my name,
He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls
and hears me when I call.

I have a Father,
He calls me His own.
He’ll never leave me no matter where I go.
He knows my name,
He knows my ev'ry thought.
He sees each tear that falls
and hears me when I call,
He hears me when I call.

FREELY FREELY

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name
I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to

CHORUS: He said freely freely
You have received
Freely freely give
Go in My name
And because you believe
Others will know that I live

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His pow'r as He told me to

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Give thanks to the Lord—Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand—And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn—His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Forever God is faithful—Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us—Forever forever

From the rising to the setting sun—His love endures forever
And by the grace of God—We will carry on
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

DISMISSAL

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

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure...
If there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NRSV
My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9
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  
8:00  Don Loptien

10:00  Bill Redden

LECTOR  
8:00  Scott Luethy

10:00  Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE  
8:00  Chrissy Coon

10:00  Holly Schmitt

USHERS  
8:00  Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation

10:00  Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER  
10:00  Jude Donovan

ALTAR GUILD  
Charmaine Rohde, Sharon Seible, Deb Shiflet

FLOWERS  
Charles & Gloria Mielke, in joyous celebration of their 48th wedding anniversary

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