THE DAY OF PENTECOST

What About Women?

AS WE GATHER

During the summer, pastor is preaching on a variety of topics selected by members of the congregation. Today he is focusing on the gifts God has given to women and their role together with men in fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. In our Old Testament lesson, Queen Esther risks her life to save her people - the entire Jewish nation! In our Epistle we see the role of Lois and Eunice, grandmother and mother of Timothy, who nurtured his faith and life in Jesus. In our Gospel, we hear the song of Mary, who humbled herself to become what theologians have called the Theotokus - the God-bearer, in becoming the mother of Jesus. Because of her trust in God and example of faith, all nations have called her blessed. The list of faithful women and their examples goes on: Dorcas, who served the sick and poor, touching them with compassion; Hannah, who dedicated her firstborn to the Lord; Ruth, who faithfully served her mother-in-law in a strange land among those who were not her people; Mary Magdalene, whose promiscuous life was transformed by the Lord and who became a first-witness of his resurrection. Financially and emotionally, there were quite a few women who supported Jesus with their gifts and their lives. Today's service is a call for both men and women to follow these faithful examples of godliness and humility.
GATHERING SONG

O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

(VERSES 1-2, 9)

* PREPARATION *

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING HYMN BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE Rend Collective

Come set Your rule, and reign in our hearts again.
Increase in us, we pray. Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, Like wildfire in our very souls;
Holy Spirit, come, invade us now. We are Your church; we need Your pow'r in us.

We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst;
Refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captives' hearts released; The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause.
We are Your church; we pray, revive this earth.

CHORUS: Build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand. Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire. Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere. Build Your kingdom here, we pray!

Unleash Your kingdom's power, Reaching the near and far.
No force of hell can stop Your beauty, changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this; Awake the kingdom seed in us.
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth. CHORUS

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Creator Spirit,
People: we confess our alienation from You both by nature and by choice. We have not allowed Your love to have free reign in us, and so our love for You, for ourselves, and for other people keeps on faltering. We have sometimes allowed gender stereotypes to lessen our view of others. We have not always fully valued women or men as You do,
each having unique and necessary gifts. Send Your wind of transformation. Heal us with forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit! Breathe over and ignite the love of God for women and men both within and among us!
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.

Hathach went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And
who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”

So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Acts 2:17b; Rom. 10:10

I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. With the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Epistle Reading: II Timothy 1:3-7

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.


Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are
proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”
Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Jenna Lawrenz

SONG OF THE DAY FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN

(Verses 1, 8-9, 13, 4)

SERMON “What About Women?”
Pastor John Larson
TEXT: II Timothy 1:3-7

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 SONG    HOW DEEP THE FATHER’S LOVE FOR US    Townend

How deep the Father’s love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom
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. People: And also with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord. [Colossians 3:1]
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise. [Psalm 136]

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.”
DISTRIBUTION SONGS

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Thank you for the cross, Lord.
Thank you for the price you paid.
Bearing all my sin and shame, in love you came
And gave Amazing Grace.

Thank you for this love, Lord.
Thank you for the nail-pierced hands.
Wash me in Your cleansing flow, now all I know...
Your forgiveness and embrace.

Worthy is the Lamb Seated on the throne.
We crown You now with many crowns
You reign victorious!
High and lifted up Jesus, Son of God.
The darling of Heaven, crucified...
Worthy is the Lamb.

GOOD, GOOD FATHER

I've heard a thousand stories
Of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper
Of love in the dead of night and
You tell me that You're pleased
And that I'm never alone

CHORUS: You're a Good Good Father It's who You are
It's who You are It's who You are And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, It's who I am, It's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers
Far and wide But I know we're all searching for answers
Only You provide Because You know just what we need
Before we say a word CHORUS

You are perfect in all of Your ways,
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us
You are perfect in all of Your ways,
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still Into love, love, love CHORUS (x3)
THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory I will see his face,
There I’ll serve my King forever, in that holy place.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you
in His grace.

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  
HALLELUJAH  
Brenton Brown | Brian Doerksen

Your love is amazing Steady and unchanging  
Your love is a mountain Firm beneath my feet  
Your love is a myst'ry How You gently lift me  
When I am surrounded Your love carries me

CHORUS:  Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Your love makes me sing  
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah Your love makes me sing

Your love is surprising I can feel it rising  
All the joy that's growing Deep inside of me  
Ev'ry time I see You All Your goodness shines through  
I can feel this God song Rising up in me  

CHORUS

Your love is amazing Steady and unchanging  
Your love is a mountain Firm beneath my feet  
Your love is a myst'ry How You gently lift me  
When I am surrounded Your love carries me  

CHORUS

Yes You make me sing  Lord You make me sing sing sing sing  
Lord You make me sing  

CHORUS X2

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
### Serving in Worship

**OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT**
- Pastor John Larson

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**
- Michael Zehnder

**ORGAN ASSISTANT**
- Diana Gaide

**AGAPE**
- Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Will Kopriva, Jenna Lawrenz, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

**ELDER**
- 8:00: Roger Gaide
- 10:00: Roger Gaide

**LECTOR**
- 8:00: Mike Reimnitz
- 10:00: Kathy Johnson

**ACOLYTE**
- 8:00: Chrissy Coon
- 10:00: Hannah Schmidt

**USHERS**
- 8:00: Larry Nisbet, Members of the Congregation
- 10:00: Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

**SERVER**
- 10:00: Margo Pasha

**ALTAR GUILD**
- Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Judy Peterson, Deb Shilet

**FLOWERS**
- Patti Zeggert, in celebration of her son, Nick’s, 29th birthday.

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