Jacob had a history of wrestling his way through things. From his father Isaac to his brother Esau to his uncle Laban to the angel of the Lord we hear about today, Jacob has contended against others and for the Lord. Perhaps you feel that way too. But God is the great contender who has wrestled for Israel of old and for you—with Jesus fighting in our place and on our behalf to win salvation for us. Therefore, do not fear, for the Lord fights for you and He who has done all things for your salvation will not abandon you to anyone or any power until you rest in His presence eternally. Though it seems we have great enemies, Christ is greater, and He will not allow them to snatch us from His hand.
GATHERING SONG

THIS IS AMAZING GRACE

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger? The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder, who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

CHORUS: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross. You laid down Your life that I would be set free. Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You’ve done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter? The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance? The King of Glory, the King above all kings. CHORUS
PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

BETTER IS ONE DAY

Redman

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Remember Your people, which You have purchased of old,
People: which You have redeemed to be the people of Your heritage.
Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
People: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,
People: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver me, O Lord, according to Your mercy and steadfast love and restore me that I may rest in Your peace. Amen.
Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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.
Pastor: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.
People: And also with you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 32:22–30
(I will not let You go until You bless me.)

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?"
"Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

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

EPISTLE: 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5
(Continue in what you have learned and believed.)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to
myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

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

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

(Always pray and do not lose heart.)

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

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’ “And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.
SONG OF THE DAY  WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME  Ligertwood/Fielding

You were the Word at the beginning One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation Now revealed in You our Christ

CHORUS: What a beautiful Name it is, What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is, Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater What could separate us now CHORUS

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, God you reign Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name, above all names

What a powerful Name it is, What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is, Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is, The Name of Jesus

SERMON  “Can We Ever Bother Our Lord?”  Rev. James Carretto


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 I LIFT MY HANDS Tomlin

Be still, there is a healer His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy is unfailing His arms are a fortress for the weak
Let faith arise, Let faith arise

CHORUS: I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God, forever

Be still, there is a river That flows from Calvary’s tree
A fountain for the thirsty Your grace that washes over me.
Let faith arise, let faith arise. CHORUS

Let faith arise, Let faith arise Open my eyes, Open my eyes
Let faith arise, Let faith arise Open my eyes, Open my eyes 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.

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.


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**

**LIVING HOPE**  
Wickham-Johnson

How great the chasm that lay between us  
How high the mountain I could not climb  
In desperation, I turned to heaven And spoke Your name into the night  
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness  
Tore through the shadows of my soul  
The work is finished, the end is written  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?  
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?  
The God of ages stepped down from glory  
To wear my sin and bear my shame  
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven The King of kings calls me His own  
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever  
Jesus Christ, my living hope

**CHORUS:**  
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There’s salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope (TWICE)

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the promise  
Your buried body began to breathe  
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me  
Jesus, Yours is the victory, (whoa!) **CHORUS**

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
You have broken every chain  
There's salvation in Your name  
Jesus Christ, my living hope Jesus Christ, my living hope  
Oh God, You are my living hope
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.

**HOSANNA**

I see the King of glory, Coming on the clouds with fire.  
The whole earth shakes, The whole earth shakes. Yeah.  
I see His love and mercy, Washing over all our sin.  
The people sing, The people sing.

**CHORUS:** Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

I see a generation rising up to take their place,  
With selfless faith. With selfless faith.  
I see a near revival stirring as we pray and seek.  
We're on our knees. We're on our knees. **CHORUS**

Heal my heart and make it clean.  
Open up my eyes to the things unseen.  
Show me how to love like You have loved me.  
Break my heart for what breaks Yours.  
Everything I am, for Your Kingdom's cause.  
As I walk from earth into eternity. **CHORUS**

Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna in the highest.
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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG A MIGHTY FORTRESS

A mighty fortress is our God A sword and shield victorious
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod And wins salvation glorious
The old satanic foe Has sworn to work us woe
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight On earth he has no equal

No strength of ours can match his might We would be lost rejected
But now a champion comes to fight Whom God Himself elected
You ask who this may be? The Lord of Hosts is He!
Christ Jesus Mighty Lord God’s only Son adored He holds the field victorious

CHORUS: A Mighty Fortress (echo)
        Our God Victorious (echo)

God’s word forever shall abide No thanks to foes who fear it
For God himself fights by our side With weapons of the spirit
Were they to take our house Goods honor child or spouse
Though life be wretched away They cannot win the day
The Kingdom’s ours forever CHORUS
CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson
PREACHER
Rev. James Carretto
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT
& CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide
YOUTH BAND
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER
8:00
Scott Luethy
10:30
Roger Gaide

LECTOR
8:00
Anita Baresel
10:30
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE
8:00
Jonas Tunheim
10:30
Nolan Pierce

USHERS
8:00
Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation
10:30
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER
10:30
Les Young

ALTAR GUILD
Dawn Munson, Judy Peterson, Cathy Utecht, Barb Williams

FLOWERS
Janet Parrott, in thankfulness to God for the Ascension congregation and their prayers.

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