

BULLETIN TEMPLATE:

Minnesota Valley Church

Date: Sunday, November 20, 2022

Church Year Date: Last Sunday of the Church Year

Prelude: Carol Gustafson

Singers: Fugleberg

Hymn #521 (Refrain Only 2x) "Thank You, Lord"

Responsive Reading: Psalm 46

LEADER: God is our refuge and strength,

ALL: an ever-present help in trouble.

MEN: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

WOMEN: and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

LEADER: though its waters roar and foam

ALL: and the mountains quake with their surging.

**WOMEN: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God,**

LEADER: the holy place where the Most High dwells.

MEN: God is within her, she will not fall;

LEADER: God will help her at break of day.

**ALL: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.**

**LEADER: "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

**ALL: The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Hymn: #147 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

Thanksgiving Prayer

Children's Bell Song: #146 (Congregation vss. 2&3) "We Gather Together"

Reader: Joel Carrizales

Old Testament Lesson: *Malachi 3:13-18 "You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?' 14 "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? 15 But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly, the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'" 16 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 17 "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.*

Gospel Lesson: *Luke 23:26-43 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28 Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the time will*

come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then

"they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" ' 31 For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" 32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals-one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed- *I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is*

seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen

Gloria Patri: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Announcements & Offering

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Carol

Sermon: “THANKFUL FOR JESUS” Colossians 1:13-16
Pastor Tom Olson; 11/20/22 *Grace to you and peace, from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen*

TODAY: Our Gospel Lesson for this “Last Sunday of the Church Year” is a scene from the cross where one of the criminals asks Jesus to remember him when He comes in His kingdom. He is absolutely sure that Jesus is the Messiah, in spite of the situation. Isn’t that amazing? Then Jesus makes the reply that we know so well. He says to that dying thief, ***"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."***

TRANSITION: Jesus died, then the thieves died. The one who called out to Jesus had the experiencing of dying in agony on a cross and waking up in Paradise. Jesus was waiting for him with open arms. He went from being a broken failure in this life to being a treasured child of God, secure in heaven forever. Jesus was saving lost souls right up to his dying breath!

SUMMARY: Today’s Epistle lesson is a good summary of the ministry and mission of Jesus on earth as we wrap up this church

year and usher in this Thanksgiving week with the theme,
“THANKFUL FOR JESUS.” **Colossians 1:13-20**

I. OUR DELIVERER *Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*

NATURE: When we are born into this fallen human race, we are born with a broken connection to God and an active connection to sin. Anyone who has raised little toddlers knows how naughty they can be to one another. Parents work hard to teach their children to be kind and share. Our dark side can get pretty bad if left unchecked.

NEED: We all need the POWER of JESUS OUR DELIVERER to break us away from our old nature. Sometimes demonic spirits can affect us too.

NORM: The other day I visited Norm Haglin since his wife recently died. We had an amazing visit. Norm and JoAnne had a powerful prayer ministry over the years. They would pray with souls after the service who needed help from God. He told me a number of stories of healings and deliverances from all sorts of afflictions. After hearing Norm’s testimonies, I desired to see the power of God set people free at the altar afterward through prayer ministry.

MINISTRY: So many people need to be set free. The power of Jesus Name can help them. *Matthew 4:23-25 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.*

TODAY: I know in my heart that God is still in the business of delivering people from darkness to light. I hope that we as a church can focus on those same things through the power of the Word of God and the ministry of prayer. We are **THANKFUL FOR JESUS OUR DELIVERER**. We are also thankful for Jesus...

II. OUR REDEEMER *Colossians 1:14-15 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

BOUGHT: The word REDEEM means to buy back. It means that God first owned us, because we are his creation. But by our own choice to sin, we have left God's kingdom. In order for us to live in God's kingdom forever, we had to be **BOUGHT BACK, REDEEMED**. But what kind of money can you use to buy a soul? There is only one thing that can redeem a sinful soul. It is the shedding of pure and innocent blood. All of the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament clearly demonstrate that truth. *Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; IT IS THE BLOOD THAT MAKES ATONEMENT for one's life.*

BLOOD: This purchase of our soul with innocent blood is described in *1 Peter 1:18&19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

HOSEA: The Old Testament prophet Hosea was instructed by God to marry a prostitute. She ran away back into harlotry. Eventually she became a slave and was up for sale at a slave auction. Hosea went and bought her back with his own money. It was a living prophecy of God's love for unfaithful Israel. It is also a prophecy of Jesus going to the cross to redeem sinners.

WEDDING: I will never forget attending a wedding at Richfield Lutheran Church. An older pastor performed a wedding for an older couple. The pastor announced that in a lifetime of ministry he had never done what he was about to do...re-marry a couple that he had married many decades ago as a young minister at that same church. The man left his wife and ran away with another woman for years. But that ended in divorce and his first wife was waiting for him...she never gave up. Her love “bought him back” and their family was reunited until they died.

LOVED: We are loved in the same way. We ran away with a false lover and Jesus bought us back. Is there any greater love than to give your life to save someone who rejected you? We are THANKFUL FOR JESUS, OUR REDEEMER. We are thankful for Jesus...

III. OUR CREATOR *Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

BEGINNING: The one who bought us back is the same one who created all things *“in the beginning.” John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* He not only made us physically, that same Word of God gave us life. John 1:4 goes on to say, *“In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”* It was through that Word that life was imparted to Adam and Eve. Light and life come from Him. And that second person of the Godhead became a human baby in the manger of Bethlehem. *John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”* The very one who died on the cross is the very one that gave life to all living things.

PURPOSE: He knows us intimately; He cares about us deeply. God desired to create a being that could love and be loved, communicate, think, make decisions and relate to God according to His image. In Genesis 3 we find God coming to the Garden of Eden in the “cool of the day.” I suppose He came in human form. God wanted a friend. Jesus expressed this to His disciples when He said, *John 15:15 “...I have called you friends”*

FRIENDS: Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh, created us to be friends with God. We are THANKFUL FOR JESUS, OUR CREATOR. We are thankful for Jesus...

IV. OUR KING *Colossians 1:17-18 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

PERSPECTIVE: Most every Sunday we repeat out loud these powerful words, *“He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”* Jesus is High King. The devil gets a big victory in our life when he gets us to forget that the risen Savior is all powerful and reigning supreme. God is doing great things today, even in our times of trouble.

MYSTERIES: Poet William Cowper puts it this way, *“Deep in unfathomable mines, Of never-failing skill, He treasures up His bright designs, And works His sov’ reign will.”*

WORSHIP: I look forward to bowing before my Sovereign King, Jesus Christ...He is worthy of all honor, glory and praise. I love singing and listening to that great hymn “Beautiful Savior.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYrfcNG2vsM>

For a moment the darkness of this world disappears and you are in the throne room of God and you know that Jesus is Lord, all is well and everything is ultimately under control and working out for good...even if it doesn't look like it at the moment. Worship does that for us.

NEWTON: John Newton, the author of "Amazing Grace" was a vile slave trader until He met Jesus. God transformed His life through the cross. *"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."*

SUMMARY: We have spent this past church year focusing on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Today we have seen a summary of it all: **JESUS, OUR DELIVERER, OUR REDEEMER, OUR CREATOR and OUR KING. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR JESUS!** *"Beautiful Savior, Lord of the Nations, Son of God and Son of Man, Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forever more be Thine. Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen"*

Hymn #145 "Now Thank We All Our God"

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song: Chosen by Carol

Postlude: Carol Gustafson