

**Minnesota Valley Church; Sunday, July 20, 2025**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Prelude: Rebekah Olson

**HYMN #582 “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: from Psalm 27**

**PASTOR: The LORD is my light and my salvation--**

**ALL: Whom shall I fear?**

**PASTOR: The LORD is the stronghold of my life--**

**ALL: Of whom shall I be afraid?**

**PASTOR: One thing I ask of the LORD,  
this is what I seek:**

**ALL: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,**

**PASTOR: To gaze upon the beauty of the LORD**

**ALL: And to seek him in his temple.**

**PASTOR: For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;**

**ALL: He will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle  
and set me high upon a rock.**

**HYMN #537 “Jesus Is All the World to Me”**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE:**

Reader: Joel Carrizales

Old Testament Lesson: *Genesis 18:20-33* Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know." 22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. 23 Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with

*the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?" 26 The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake." 27 Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, 28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it." 29 Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?" He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it." 30 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." 31 Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?" He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it." 32 Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?" He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it." 33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.*

Epistle Lesson: *Luke 11:1-13* One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." 2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: "'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'" 5 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' 7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and

*give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

**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 *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.*

Rebekah Olson Alaska Mission Report

Announcements and Receive Offering

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Songs to be chosen by Rebekah

**SERMON: Colossians 1:21-29 "The Mystery"** *Grace to you and peace from God our father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

On my way home from church on Wednesday, I turned on Faith Radio 90.7 and heard an interview about mental health with Dr. Marcus Bachmann, a Christian counselor. Before coming to the studio, he asked his colleagues for helpful mental health tips to share on Faith Radio and here are some of them:

7. Have great gratitude...the giving of thanks.
6. Enjoy clean comedy and laugh.
5. Avoid unrealistic expectations of yourself and others.
4. Take care of yourself with wholesome food and lots of exercise in the out of doors.
3. Prioritize rest, get a phone app that tells you to get to bed.
- 2 and 1 are together: Stay rooted in the Word of God daily and **ESPECIALLY STUDY** who you are in Christ.

That is today's topic, "THE MYSTERY" of who I am in Christ. This is our second message from the book of Colossians, chapter 1, verses 21-29.

## **I. CHRIST TO US**

**Colossians 1:21-23** *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation- 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

NEED: The need in our land is great. Thousands of people around us are falling apart. Anger and frustration are bursting out of people. People can't have civil conversations. Violence is breaking out in many places. Depression and anxiety are epidemic. We are a mission field and somebody has to bring Christ to the nation.

Look at the list here of symptoms of the disease.

- v. 21 ALIENATED: so many people feel far from God. As a result, they become alienated from other. People are lonely.
- ENEMIES: notice that this enmity is in the mind. The mind is the battlefield where Satan attacks.
- EVIL BEHAVIOR: stealing and violence is on the rise. Immorality is everywhere. In some cities there are neighborhoods where even the police are afraid to go.

RECONCILED: Praise the Lord that there is good news. Paul says here that we “have been reconciled by Christ’s physical body.” His perfect, holy and righteous blood washes away our sins. ***Leviticus 17:11-12 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. John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.***

PARDON: This is the message that we bring to the world, CHRIST TO US. This is the message that gives us peace and eternal life. “...my sin is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.” An elderly pastor once expressed that we hold in our hands the message that the world desperately needs. It is a message that no other religion offers: ...the full pardon of all our sins. This is good news.

TESTIMONIES: You are going to hear me urging you this year to find ways to tell others about the Lord. It can be subtle in any place. I talked to Jim and Carol Null about his health. Jim said that the doctor asked him if he was worried about it. Jim answered, “No, because I know that God has it under control.” When Nellie Sealy went to the hospital time after time, she would say, “There must be someone there that I need to tell about Jesus.” I am so thankful that people brought Christ to me and now I have the privilege of bringing Christ to others. That is the primary work of the church on earth. CHRIST TO US. THE MYSTERY is also...

## II. CHRIST IN US

***Colossians 1:24-27 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness- 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory.***

INDWELT: When Jesus saves us, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of our soul. This is the mystery that was hidden for generation but now revealed, that our hope of heaven is CHRIST IN US. My hope of eternal life is not found in anything I have done. **It is found in God living inside of my body and soul, cleansing me of sin and “infusing” me with His life.** If you have Jesus inside of you, you are saved. If you don’t have Jesus, you are lost. You can belong to a church and be lost and you can be in the wilderness, alone, with no church and be saved if Jesus is in you.

SIMPLE: John puts it so simply in 1 John 5:11-12 “*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*”

SUFFERING: What about suffering? Verse 24 reminds that when Jesus comes into our lives, the world will hate us because the world hates Jesus. The devil hates Jesus through the people he controls. Many people are laying down their lives for Christ all over the world. Communists, secularists, Hindus and Muslim extremists are killing Christians all over the world and burning their homes and churches down. When we suffer for our faith, it is Jesus who is being attacked and therefore our suffering is the suffering of Christ. Isn’t it amazing that the world hates Jesus who never owned anything but the clothes on his back, he never killed anyone or started a war, He spent His life healing the sick and preaching good

news to the poor. He is the one the world hates because the devil controls the world and the devil can't figure out a way to defeat Jesus. He tried through the centuries to stop Him from being born. He had him nailed to the cross, not realizing that the cross would be the salvation of lost souls. CHRIST IN US. Finally...

### III. CHRIST THROUGH US

**Colossians 1:28-29** *We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

GOAL: Paul's goal was to present everyone "perfect" in Christ. That use of the word "perfect" means MATURE, complete or filled with the Holy Spirit. Salvation is not just the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. It is a body and soul that is inhabited by God himself and one through whom God accomplishes His purposes. Here are Paul's words, ***struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*** We struggle in the spiritual battle of life with the power of God working in us. God is bigger than the struggles and by His grace we come out victorious and fruitful.

KEY: The key, as Dr. Bachmann said on Faith Radio is to know who we are in Christ. It is not our mere outward actions that define who we are. Anyone can fake it. But it is who we are that determines our actions. The deeper our trust is in Christ and His Word, the more powerful will be the work of Christ in our life and the stiffer will be the opposition of the enemy.

FOCUS: Nothing gets me through tough days better than knowing that I am a child of the King and that the King is coming back soon to make things right. Until the trumpet sounds, we press on to bring: CHRIST TO OTHERS, to see that the people in our live have CHRIST IN THEM and then disciple them to maturity so that we see CHRIST THROUGH THEM doing God's will. Nothing brings me more joy than to see Christ working through my biological and

spiritual children and the people in our congregation. THE MYSTERY now revealed is Jesus Christ in us by the Holy Spirit. If you have never invited Christ to live in and through you, don't delay. He is waiting to save your soul and use your life for eternal purposes.

CONCLUSION: George Beverly Shay had the opportunity for a powerful and lucrative radio and television career with CBS news. But his mother felt that God had other plans for him as a gospel singer. She put a poem on the music rack on his piano and he read the words and put them to music. He gave up his opportunity with CBS and joined the Billy Graham team as a singer. He sang for Jesus until he was 104 years old. Today we sing that song as our testimony.

### Hymn #535 "I'd Rather Have Jesus"

**Lord's Prayer:** *Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

**Benediction & Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men. A-men. A---men.*

**Postlude:** Rebekah Olson