



**FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH:
Relationships with Each Other**

June 28/29, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's eternal love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES: Genesis—Foundations of the Christian Faith

Genesis 1-3 reveal so many central truths of the Christian faith, all while remaining relevant to the relationships we have in this world. We'll see who God is, who we were created to be, and what we have become. We'll find our purpose in this world and who we are in Christ. Together, as we worship our Lord, we go back to the beginning, back to Genesis, back to the Foundations of the Christian Faith.

Today's Focus: Relationships with each other, specifically – the Foundation for a Christian Marriage.



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O Lord, as we prepare to worship you today. Help us to concentrate on your life-saving gospel which reminds us that heaven is ours. Help us take this to heart. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING MEDLEY

Come Just as You Are

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are - Come and see, come receive, come and live forever.

Life everlasting, and strength for today,
Taste the Living Water And never thirst again.

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are - Come and see, come receive, come and live forever.

Life everlasting, and strength for today,
Taste the Living Water And never thirst again.

Come just as you are, hear the Spirit call.
Come just as you are - Come and see, come receive, come and live forever.

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory; great things He has done!
He so loved the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory – great things He has done!

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory – great things He has done!

STAND

**Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see.**

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give Him the glory – great things He has done!**

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of God the Father, who is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Congregation: Praise the Lord!

M: In the name of Jesus Christ, † powerfully proclaimed to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.

C: Who was put to death for our sins and raised for our justification.

M: In the name of God the Holy Spirit, who gives new life to all who trust in Christ.

C: We are born again by water and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BE SEATED

CONFESSION

M: As we consider relationships today, we are reminded how in 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul tells us about Love. Paul says that love is patient and kind. It does not envy nor boast nor is proud nor rude nor self-seeking nor easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Let us humble ourselves before God, repent of our sins of not loving God and our neighbor perfectly, and seek his forgiveness.

C: Merciful Father, I confess my sin to you. I acknowledge that I deserve your anger and punishment for not loving you as I should. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and I admit my helplessness to overcome my sinful nature or to atone for my wrongs. But, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for me, I seek your mercy and forgiveness. Cleanse me from my sin and give me your Holy Spirit to help me change my sinful life.

(silence for reflection)

ABSOLUTION

M: As a called servant of the Lord, 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. Now, cleansed from your sin through Jesus Christ, live a new life of kindness to your spouse and to the people around you, as the forgiven children of God.

C: Thank you, Lord, for forgiveness and new life. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Gracious Father, we thank you for giving us the blueprint for Christian marriage. As with all of your creation, we, too, have to look at it and confess, "It is very good." Help us to support and to make our marriages what you want them to be – a lifelong union of one man and one woman in an unconditional commitment of love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Cantor

Oh God, I seek You. My soul thirsts for you.
Your love is finer than life.

ALL

**Oh God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you.
Your love is finer than life.**

Cantor

As a dry and weary desert land, so my soul is thirsting for my God,
and my flesh is faint for the God I seek, for your love is more to me than life.

ALL

**Oh God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you.
Your love is finer than life.**

Cantor

I think of you when at night I rest. I reflect upon your steadfast love.
I will cling to you, Oh Lord my God. In the shadow of your wings I sing.

ALL

**Oh God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you.
Your love is finer than life.**

Cantor

I will bless your name all the days I live. I will raise my hands and call on you.
My joyful lips shall sing your praise. You alone have filled my hungry soul.

ALL

**Oh God, I seek you. My soul thirsts for you.
Your love is finer than life.**

THE WORD

LESSON

Ephesians 5:21-33

The foundation of a Christian Marriage is love. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. This is a self-sacrificing love, an undeserved love, a totally committed love. Wives are to submit to their husbands as the church submits to Christ. This submission, based on love, is to be an unforced submission, a trusting submission, a totally committed submission.

²¹ and by submitting to one another in reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he himself is the Savior. ²⁴Moreover, as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, by cleansing her with the washing of water in connection with the Word. ²⁷He did this so that he could present her to himself as a glorious church, having no stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but so that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹To be sure, no one has ever hated his own body, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.” ³²This is a great mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³In any case, each one of you also is to love his wife as himself, and each wife is to respect her husband.

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 19:1-11

While the Pharisees tried to test and trick Jesus in order to trap him, Jesus lays out the foundation that God himself laid out when he made man and woman and instituted marriage.

^{19:1} When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³ Some Pharisees came in order to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?”

⁴ He answered, “Haven’t you read that from the beginning their Maker ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

⁷ They asked him, “Then why did Moses command a man to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸ Jesus said to them, “Because of your hard hearts, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but it was not that way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the grounds of her sexual immorality, and marries another woman is committing adultery.”

¹⁰ His disciples said to him, “If this is the relationship of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ But he said to them, “Not everyone can accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given.

BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *Children remain seated with their families as pastor shares a message.*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine

PLEASE RISE

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!”

BE SEATED

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is a suitable partner for him.” ¹⁹Out of the soil the LORD God had formed every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them. Whatever the man called every living creature, that became its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all the livestock, and to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal, but for Adam no helper was found who was a suitable partner for him. ²¹The LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. As the man slept, the LORD God took a rib and closed up the flesh where it had been. ²²The LORD God built a woman from the rib that he had taken from the man and brought her to the man.

²³The man said, Now this one is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She will be called “woman,” because she was taken out of man. ²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will remain united with his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Look At God’s Blueprint For Marriage!

- One man, one woman
- Becoming one flesh
- For a lifetime



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended* into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will 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.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Whether you are worshiping in person or watching online, please fill out our Connection Card on our web site at www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship.

OFFERING PRAISE

Lead Me

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, we praise you for breaking through our foolish pride in which we assume that it is possible to gain happiness and eternal life by our own works.

C: We praise you for the gift of faith by which we understand that salvation is your gracious work, not ours.

M: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we assume that we know more than we really do. Help us to accept our human limitations and grant us confidence in your Word.

C: Give every one of us a great respect for the Holy Scriptures and a desire to learn the truths they reveal.

* In this phrase of our ancient Christian creed (statement of faith) we celebrate Jesus' being exalted as King, ruling in glory over all things for our good! Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after his resurrection (celebrated May 21 this year). See Acts 1.

M: Lord in heaven, we thank you for making Christ the foundation of your church.

C: Through his perfect life and willing death he built us a home in heaven.

M: This love not only saves us; it also serves as a model for Christian marriage.

C: Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord.

M: Help us to accept these roles as part of your will for our lives.

C: And lead us to use these roles to serve you and our marriage partner.

M: Now, for the things we truly need, and in accord with the words which Jesus has taught us, we rise and pray ...

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Based on Ephesians 3:14-18

M: Go in peace.

May the Father strengthen you with the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
and that you may have power to grasp
how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

C: To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING SONG

Praise To The Lord Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our songs of praise today are accompanied by **Cross Rhythms**,
one of our congregation's own musical groups.
Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Dave Pries
Scripture Reader: Bruce Heckmann

Come Just as You Are

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To God Be the Glory

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Your Love is Finer Than Life

Psalm 63 By Marty Haugen ©1982 by GIA Publication, Inc. All rights reserved.. Used by Permission. CCLI 1180837.

How Firm A Foundation

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Lead Me

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Praise To The Lord Almighty

Words by JOACHIM NEANDER New Chorus and Arrangement by JON NICHOLAS. © 2013 Broadman Press (SESAC)
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Holy Bible

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