

Community Questions

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND JESUS?



PRESERVICE

“Run to the Father”

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

LSB 904

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

C: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

P: let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,

C: and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

(Isaiah 55:6-7)

P: Almighty God, this morning we return to you, aware that our thoughts have not always been pure. We have thought ill of others, we have thought too highly of ourselves, we have not thought of those who are in desperate need of your saving grace. We hear your call to repent and turn to you that we might receive your compassion and pardon. Hear us now as we confess our sins to you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Please take a moment for personal reflection silent confession

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P: The Scripture says: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9) While we have sinned in our thoughts and ways, God in His thoughts provided a way for us to be forgiven. In His mercy He has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. 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.

C: Amen.

SONG

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

LSB 802

Please be seated

E: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 4:10-12, 21-25, 33-34

And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹² so that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.” ²¹ And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” ²⁴ And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵ For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 2:11-16

For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Please stand

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-12

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSE

P: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:

C: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

P: to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

C: Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path.

(Psalm 27:4, 11a)

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, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

VBS CHILDREN'S SONG

"Your Power Will Pull Us Through"

OFFERING SONG

"You Are My Vision"

MESSAGE

"Community Questions: *Why Is It So Hard to Understand Jesus?*"

Pastor John Davis

Please stand

PRAYERS

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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

(Matthew 6: 9 – 13)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

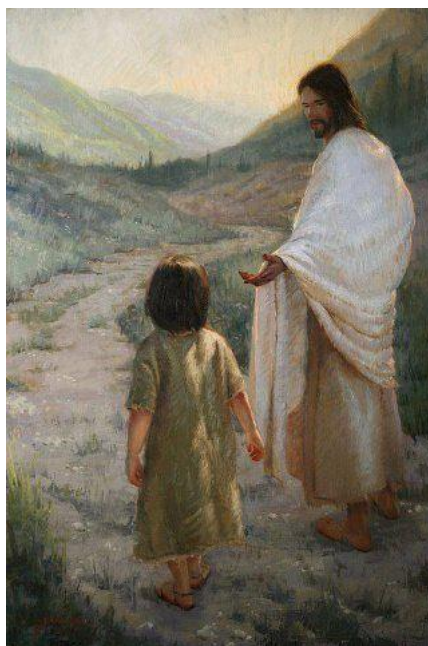
- P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."*
- P: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and 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."*

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

"Come Follow Me"

Men's Chorus



"Your Table I Approach"

LSB 628

"What Is This Bread"

LSB 629

"Mercy"

Please stand

COMMUNION BLESSINGS

BLESSING

P: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“Mercy”

