

AS WE GATHER

The Lord teaches us through His Word that homosexuality is a sinful distortion of His desire that one man and one woman live together in marriage as husband and wife. God categorically prohibits homosexuality. Other sexual identity issues such as Transgenderism are also out of alignment with God’s Will. How do we respond to these issues as Christians, and do so with love? We remember that our identity is only found in Jesus Christ. We remember that all sin is equally punishable by God. We realize all of us are made in God’s Image, and all have forgiveness won for them.

Gathering Song How Wide the Love of Christ LSB 535

Welcome & Invocation

Opening Song Love in Christ is Strong and Living LSB 706

1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful
 2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -
 3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when

hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.
 mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
 ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,

May His will in us be done.
 Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
 Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858

Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. 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.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Loving God, source of all creation, You endowed all people with inherent dignity and worth, and You invite us to treat each other in ways that honor and value that worth. Guide us all as we

seek your justice here on earth; give us the courage to reconcile with those who have been harmed in the name of religion. Most of all, help us see our value and identity, not in ourselves, our minds, our sexual preference, but only see our identity, and value in You:
People: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reader

Dan Macejkovic

First Reading

Leviticus 18:1-5, 22-30

(Unlawful Sexual Relations)

¹And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²"Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. ⁴You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. ⁵You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

²²You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. ²³And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

²⁴"Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, ²⁵and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. ²⁶But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you ²⁷(for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean), ²⁸lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you. ²⁹For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. ³⁰So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God."

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:18-32

(God's Wrath on Unrighteousness)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³²Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Romans 8: 31-35, 37-39

(Nothing Can Separate Us from Love)

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Song of the Day

O Love, How Deep LSB 544 1-3

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore

Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 Of high - er or low - er place,
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;

That God, the Son of God, should take
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 And to this world Him - self He came.
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Tough Topic Tackle Box: LGBTQ

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – Catechism *The Sixth Commandment; The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer*

Pastor: You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.**

Pastor: And lead us not into temptation. What does this mean?

People: **God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.**

Prayers of the Church

Pastor Lord of Love, so many people are hurting for love and acceptance. Many today do so out of the gender and sexuality You have created in them. Help those struggling with their bodies and minds to see value and worth not in themselves, but in Your saving grace of your Son Jesus Christ. Help all of us be agents of love toward all people, while still also speaking Your truth in love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church, and often cause terror and violence. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear the cries of those who awaken to face another day of injustice, prejudice, and oppression. Comfort those considering or are faced with the possibility of aborting the life of a child. Help all of us realize that all life is precious. Give us all hope in Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give to all families grace to love one another, that husbands and wives live in fidelity toward each other and show compassionate care to their children. Bless all women in childbirth and sustain the aged in strength of body and mind. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Bless the married that they be faithful, bless the single that they be chaste and enjoy the company and support of Christian friends, and bless the aged and infirm that they know the loving care of family in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Help us to be good stewards of Your creation, to share what You have supplied with those in need, and to support the work of Your Church in her mission here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Offering

Give Thanks LSB 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (repeat)

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong;"
Let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us (repeat)

Give thanks, give thanks.

Text: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

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.**

The Words of Our Lord [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [*1 Cor. 11:26*]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [*Revelation 22:20*]

Lord's Prayer

 [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

Distribution

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Instrumental)

My Song is Love Unknown LSB 430 1, 3, 6



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
 sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
 have; In death no friend - ly tomb But what a strang - er



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
 King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
 gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 And for His death They thirst and cry.
 But mine the tomb Where - in He lay.

Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005858 Text: Public domain

What Wonderful Love is This LSB 543 vv 1-3



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, When
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this That
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, When I was sink - ing down Be -
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my
 neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my
 is the great I AM, While mil - lions join the theme, I will



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.

Tune and text: Public domain

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

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.

Announcements

Sending Song

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Tune and text: Public domain