

AS WE GATHER

We focus today on the words of James, which call us to an active faith that loves our neighbors. We are forced to ask ourselves: What good is a faith that bears no fruit of love and service to others? Such a question might make us worry about our salvation. Friends in Christ: do not fear; your living, saving faith in Christ will inevitably overflow with His good works. Christ powerfully works in us as we live out our daily vocations. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Gathering Song Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
Wait upon the Lord we will wait upon the Lord

Our God You reign forever
Our hope Our strong Deliv'rer

You are the everlasting God the everlasting God
You do not faint You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
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Welcome & Invocation

Opening Song Same Power

I can see the waters raging at my feet
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me
I can hear the sound of nations rising up
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

I can walk down this dark and painful road
I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown
I can hear all God's children singing out
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us lives in us

We have hope that His promises are true
In His strength there is nothing we can't do
Yes we know there are greater things in store
We will not be overtaken
We will not be overcome

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave
The same power that commands the dead to wake
Lives in us lives in us
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks
The same power that can calm a raging sea
Lives in us lives in us
He lives in us lives in us

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Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: The Lord reigns over every nation, language, and people. Yet, we have not loved all people as Christ has loved us. The fruits of our faith are not always evident. But our Lord is gracious and merciful, and He offers His forgiveness to all.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we have failed to love others as You love them. We have failed to reflect Your grace to the world in service and sacrifice. We have failed in our actions and in our unwillingness to act. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may follow You in joy. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus Christ into our world to serve and save all people, showing no partiality or favoritism. By His death, He forgives all our sins. By His resurrection, He destroys death forever and offers us eternal life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.

People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We are set free to love and serve our neighbors. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O God, the source of all that is just and good, nourish in us every virtue and bring to completion every good intent that we may grow in grace and bring forth the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Reader

Tom Gitzlaff

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4–7a

(God will come and restore all things.)

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water."

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

James 2:1–10, 14–18

(What good is a dead faith?)

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Mark 7:24–37

(Jesus heals a deaf man.)

²⁴From there [Jesus] arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message & Kid's Church

Song of the Day What the Lord has Done in Me

Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Let the blind say, "I can see, it's what the Lord has done in me."
Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Let the blind say, "I can see, it's what the Lord has done in me."

Chorus Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain;
 Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again;
 Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain;
 Hosanna, hosanna, Jesus died and rose again.

Into the river I will wade there my sins are washed away
From the heavens mercy streams, of the Savior's love for me;
I will rise from waters deep, into the saving arms of God;
I will sing salvation songs; Jesus Christ has set me free. **(Chorus)**

Let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Let the blind say, "I can see, it's what the Lord has done in me."

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Sermon

Faith Alone?

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – 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.**

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For all the nations of the world, especially the places where the message of Jesus is

stifled. For China, Russia, North Korea, Afghanistan and their leaders and residents, that peace may reign and that the Church would be a faithful witness of Jesus' love and service in every place. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: **to love all people in every place.**

Pastor: For all those who work in the service of others, especially medical professionals, military service workers, and law enforcement, that their work might be blessed by God and appreciated by others. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: **to love all people in every place.**

Pastor: For all those who have abandoned the faith, Lord, that they would once again hear Your Word and receive Your good gifts. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: **to love all people in every place.**

Pastor: For all Christians throughout the world, that their faith and good works would overflow as a blessing to many others. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: **to love all people in every place.**

Pastor: For all those with disabilities, Lord, that we might treat them with more thoughtfulness and care, serving them as Your beloved people. Lord of all nations, grant us grace

People: **to love all people in every place.**

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

Local concerns are added by congregational elder.

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 Peace

Offering Be Thou My Vision

Instrumental

Riches I heed not Nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance Now and always
Thou and Thou only First in my heart
High King of heaven My Treasure Thou art

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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

Amazing Grace, My Chains

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus: My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love amazing grace

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed **(Chorus)**

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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Trust in You

Letting go of every single dream
Every moment of my wondering

I lay each one down at Your feet
never changes what You see

I've tried to win this war I confess
Mighty warrior King of the fight

My hands are weary I need Your rest
No matter what I face You're by my side

Refrain: When You don't move the mountains I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers As I cry out to You
I will trust I will trust I will trust in you

Truth is you know what tomorrow brings
So in all things be my life and breath

There's not a day ahead that You have not seen
I want what You want Lord and nothing less **RefrainX2**

We Fall Down

We fall down, We lay our crowns At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of His mercy and love At the feet of Jesus
We cry holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the Lamb

We fall down, We lay our crowns At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of His mercy and love At the feet of Jesus
We cry holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the Lamb

(Instrumental break)

We cry holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the Lamb

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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 Your Grace is Enough

Great is Your faithfulness oh God
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters in to mercy
And nothing can keep us apart

So remember Your people
Remember Your children
Remember Your promise
Oh God

Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along

So remember Your people
Remember Your children

Remember Your promise

Oh God

Your grace is enough

Heaven reaching down to us

Your grace is enough for me

God I see your grace is enough

I'm covered in your love

Your grace is enough for me

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