



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 24, 2020

AS WE GATHER: Our continuing sermon series is entitled *Misquoted*. It is all too easy to allow our culture to blind us to the magnificent—if sometimes hard-to-swallow—truths of Scripture. This four-week series delves into some popular misunderstandings about what the Bible has to say and what Christianity is really all about. We will tackle some difficult and controversial topics, but always with both eyes fixed on what the Bible *actually* says.

OPENING HYMN

“America, the Beautiful”

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties. Above the fruited plain!
America, America, God shed His grace on thee.
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness.
America, America, God mend thine every flaw
Confirm thy soul in self-control thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for heroes proved, in liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than
life!
America, America, May God thy gold refine.
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream. That sees, beyond the years.
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America, America, God shed His grace on these,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 8

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

People: You have set Your glory above the heavens.

Pastor: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

People: The moon and the stars, which You have set in place.

Pastor: What is man that You are mindful of him,

People: And the Son of Man that You care for him?

Pastor: Yet you have made Him a little lower than the heavenly beings

People: And crowned Him with glory and honor.

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord,

People: How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us with true hearts confess together that we, through sinful thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds, have transgressed God's righteous Law and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

People: Almighty God, merciful Father, we acknowledge our sinful nature and repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. For the sake of Jesus, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we be fit places for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and serve You in time and in eternity.

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \square Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE #966, vs. 1,2,4 *“Before You, Lord, We Bow”*

- 1 Before You, Lord, we bow,
 Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
 Boundless in pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring
 In joy and praise,
 Our hearts we raise
To You, our King!
- 2 The nation You have blest
 May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
 Protected by Your care.
For this bright day,
 For this fair land—
 Gifts of Your hand—
Our thanks we pay.
- 4 Earth, hear your Maker’s voice;
 Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice,
 And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride,
 Your sin deplore,
 And bow before
The Crucified.

SALUTATION

Pastor The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: You are the King of glory, O Christ; You are the everlasting Son of the Father, now seated at His right hand. As You send the Holy Spirit to us through Your Word and Sacraments, give us the strengthening of faith to endure all trials and live in the hope of eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Thank You for Our Freedom" Miss Heidi

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶*"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on
him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

James 3:1-10

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind

of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON **Misquoted: “The Power of Positive Thinking”**
Pastor Jeffery Schubert

HYMN OF THE DAY

#411

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 I want to follow Jesus.
 God set the stars to give light to the world.
 The star of my life is Jesus. Refrain
- ref In Him there is no darkness at all.
 The night and the day are both alike.
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.
- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
 I want to look at Jesus.
 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
 And show me the way to the Father. Refrain
- 3 I’m looking for the coming of Christ.
 I want to be with Jesus.
 When we have run with patience the race,
 We shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

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APOSTLES’ CREED

- All:** 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.

THE GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty and merciful God, we give thanks for Your mercy, especially for the salvation You have prepared for the whole world through the suffering and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Enable us to walk by faith, enduring all trials encountered because of that faith as we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray that You rule and govern Your Holy Church throughout the world, granting Your blessing to all You have called to preach Your Holy Word, in order that we be preserved in the pure doctrine of Your saving Word, and that we bear witness to Your saving truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give health, wisdom, and protection to all who are in authority of making, administering, and judging our laws in order that they rule according to Your goodwill and pleasure. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give Your comfort to all who are in trouble, want, sickness, peril of death, or any other adversity. Grant courage and steadfastness especially to those who suffer for Your name's sake, that they receive and accept their afflictions in the confidence that You will acknowledge them as Your own. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

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

People: **Amen.**

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Pastor: Dear Heavenly Father, as we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our servicemen and women in Your strong arms. Cover them with Your sheltering grace and Your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection. We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for Your many blessings to fill their homes, and we pray Your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives. May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Your mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support. In the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

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.

CLOSING HYMN #965

"God Bless Our Native Land"

God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!

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