

SHARING OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P: These are the inspired words of the psalmist:

A: *"O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.*

I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old; what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

C: We will not hide them from our children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."

P: Come, let us celebrate the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,

A: *His power and the wonders he has done.*

C: Together we will tell this generation and the next!

OPENING HYMN: Hope of the Nations

Jesus hope of the nations Jesus comfort for all who mourn

You are the source of heaven's hope on earth

Jesus light in the darkness Jesus truth in each circumstance

You are the source of heaven's light on earth

In history You lived and died You broke the chains You rose to life

Chorus: You are the hope living in us

You are the Rock in whom we trust

You are the light shining for all the world to see

You rose from the dead conquering fear

Our Prince of Peace drawing us near

Jesus our hope living for all who will receive

(Repeat)

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INVOCATION:

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: We learn from the word of God that we are all conceived and born sinful and so are in need of forgiveness. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation.

C: But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

P: In the light of God's word, set forth in the commandments, let us reflect upon our lives, mindful of the ways in which we have neglected His word, walking according to our own path, rather than following His holy will.

C: We confess, O Lord, our sins and shortcomings as Your disciples. We take for granted the wisdom of Your words. We are slow to learn of You and to tell others what we have learned. We grow little in our use of the Scriptures, the Sacraments, and prayer. At times we assume that we have learned all there is to learn of Your truth, Your power, and Your grace. Forgive us, Lord. Renew us and strengthen us that once again Your people will tell this generation and the next your praiseworthy deeds.

P: God is indeed merciful to us. He does not hold our sins against us, although He has every right to do so. Instead, He has laid them all on His Son, Jesus Christ, who already suffered the punishment that these sins called for. As His servant, speaking by His command and authority, I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven; you are precious members of the eternal family of God; and He has promised to you His Holy Spirit. Rejoice in Him! Rejoice in His love, for He declares that you are His beloved children!

C Amen.

PSALM Psalm 78:1-7

P Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

C incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

P I will open my mouth in a parable;

C I will utter dark sayings from of old,

P things that we have heard and known,

C that our fathers have told us.

P We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,

C and the wonders that he has done.

P He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,

C which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

P that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,

C and arise and tell them to their children,

P so that they should set their hope in God

C and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy

Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18:21–35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM: The Table of Duties

P What do children owe to their parents?

C **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honour your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”** (Ephesians 6:1-3)

P What do parents owe to their children?

C **Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.** (Ephesians 6:4)

HYMN: Ancient Words

Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart O let the ancient words impart

Words of life, words of hope Give us strength, help us cope
In this world where'er we roam Ancient words will guide us home

Chorus: Ancient words ever true Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts O let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith Handed down to this age

Came to us through sacrifice O heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart O let the ancient words impart (Chorus)

We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart O let the ancient words impart

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SERMON: Pass it On - Psalm 78:1-7

OFFERING: *You Are My King*

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, You were condemned.

I'm alive and well, Your spirit lives within me,
Because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be?
That You, my King, would die for me.
Amazing love, I know it's true.
Its my joy to honour You.

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That You, my King, would die for me.
Amazing love, I know it's true.
Its my joy to honour You,
In all I do, I honour You.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted, You were condemned.
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PLACING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

P: Friends in Christ. Guided by the Spirit of God, we, the people of God in this place, have

chosen you to lead the children, youth, and adults of this congregation in their study of the Scriptures for the strengthening of their faith, that they may stand firm in the midst of a world that so quickly and easily turns from You. We have placed upon you a high honour and an awesome responsibility. We pledge to you our full support and our sincere prayers as you undertake this noble service. May God be with you in your private devotions, your personal study of the Word, and your growth in understanding and skills through meetings with your fellow teachers. May the Spirit bless in full measure your service among us. I now ask you: are you ready and willing to accept the challenge and privilege of serving as teachers and workers in our Sunday School, firm in the knowledge that the Lord will help and guide you as you carry out this task for Him? Then answer, "I am, with the help of God."

Teachers: I am, with the help of God.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, we give You thanks for the wondrous blessing of this assembly of faithful servants in the ministry of nurture. We praise You for their dedication and their generosity in sharing themselves with our congregation. We implore You to pour out Your blessings on their preparations, so that they may reap many benefits from their service in the word. We ask You to pour out on them Your Holy Spirit, and strengthen them for the tasks to which they are called. Help us to do everything in our power to support their ministry. May we join with them in striving to achieve the goal of bringing Your love to all of those for whom Your Son gave His life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

C: Amen.

P I place you as officers and teachers of Foothills Lutheran Sunday School in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The almighty and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, enlighten and strengthen you in your office that through you and your guidance the people of God may grow in their faith and life, and that many of those who do not know God may be drawn by the Spirit into His fellowship.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

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

Lord, grant that we not judge without mercy but forgive without limit, that we who have known the fullness of Your mercy in Christ also manifest a compassionate heart against those who sin against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, grant to Your Church Your Spirit and power, that we be supplied with faithful pastors and church workers to serve us in Your name, and that we hear and heed the voice of Your Word and walk in holiness of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, grant to those who lead us in this nation and in all the nations wisdom and integrity, that

they pursue what is good and right and just according to Your Word and commands, and serve the common good. Deliver us from terror and threat, and give Your peace to the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, grant to the sick and all who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or soul the blessing of Your mercy, with forgiveness according to Your will, and Your presence and comfort to sustain them through the day of trouble. Hear us especially on behalf of those for whom our intercession has been requested, and those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, grant to the homeless, the widowed, the orphaned, and the unemployed Your strength to bear up under the weight of their trials and Your guidance to bring them to the places where their needs may be answered. Open our hearts to care for them and support them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, grant to us grateful hearts that with our voices we offer You the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and with our tithes and offerings show forth our confidence in Your loving care and our desire to support the work of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Local concerns may be added here.

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

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you all.

C: Amen.

HYMN: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh Fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones he came to save:

Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave he rose again!

And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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