



The Most Misunderstood
Text in the Bible

Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 1, 2021

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a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NOKOMIS HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 1, 2021

10:00 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“O Waly, Waly”

arr. McMichael

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: If we speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy, but don't love,

C: we are nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

L: If we speak God's Word with power, revealing all mysteries
and making everything plain as day,

and if we have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps,
but we don't love,

C: we are nothing.

L: If we give everything we own to the poor
and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr,
but don't love,

C: we've gotten nowhere.

L: So, no matter what we say, what we believe, and what we do,
we are bankrupt without love.

C: Forgive us, O God, when we fail to love.

**Fill us up with your love,
that we show up in the world as people
who love one another as you have loved us.**

L: God is the purest of love.

Know that you are forgiven and free to love one another
as God loves you.

C: Amen

OPENING HYMN 556

“Morning Has Broken”

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE 157

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo-ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

Continued on next page

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

SALUTATION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of love,

C: **In the beginning, in the end,
and in all the empty spaces,
these three things remain:
faith, hope and love.**

And the greatest of these is love.

**Thank you for loving us
with the greatest love of all.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

WORD

THE READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

L: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-31

L: One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Patient and kind, it does not envy,
It is not proud and doesn't boast,
It's never rude, never self-seeking,
Always protects, always hopes

We could speak in the tongues of angels,
or move great mountains through great faith;
could fathom all mystery and all understanding,
but have not love, nothing is gained.

We believe love can change the world.
It's the only thing that has,
it's the only thing that will.
The greatest of these is love that changed the world.
You're the only One who can,
You're the only One who will.

Never looks back, always trusting,
never gives up, it perseveres.
Rejoicing with truth and always forgiving,
no record of wrongs, it casts out fear.

We could speak in the tongues of angels,
or move great mountains through great faith;
could fathom all mystery and all understanding,
but have not love, nothing is gained (without)

We believe love can change the world.
It's the only thing that has,
it's the only thing that will
The greatest of these is love that changed the world.
You're the only One who can,
You're the only One who will,
You're the only One who will.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Introduction

L: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together. Point us toward love and kindness above all else.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, send rain where there is drought, and be with those whose daily lives are affected by climate change.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down healing from heaven, and shower the world with your love. (*We pray for members and friends in need of prayer.*)

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome all people with open arms and open hearts.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Conclusion

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

MEAL

OFFERING HYMN 465

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Haugen

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of abundance,

C: **Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to you.**

We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us.

May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you,

dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation,

through Jesus Christ. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: You gather all to your table,
even when we keep some out.
You welcome all to your supper,
even when we limit the guest list.
Your grace and mercy are enough for all;
now let us come at our Savior's invitation.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Lamb of God”

Haugen

Congregation:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Jesus, Bread of Life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world
with your own life.
In your name we pray.

C: Amen

SENDING

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord's face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

"Light the Fire"

Maxwell

I stand to praise you, but I fall to my knees.
My spirit is hungry, but my flesh is so weak.

So light the fire (*light the fire*)
in my soul (*in my weary soul*)
Fan the flame (*fan the flame*)
make me whole (*make my spirit whole*)
Lord, you know (*Lord, you know*)
where I've been (*where I've been*)
So light the fire in my heart again.

I feel your arms around me,
as the power of your healing begins.
Your Spirit moves through me
like a mighty rushing wind.

So light the fire (*light the fire*)
in my soul (*in my weary soul*)
Fan the flame (*fan the flame*)
make me whole (*make my spirit whole*)
Lord, you know (*Lord, you know*)
where I've been (*where I've been*)
So light the fire in my heart again.

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Moment of silence

POSTLUDE

"Light the Fire"

Maxwell

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NOKOMIS
HEIGHTS

Place of Worship. Space for Questions.