

RALLY DAY SUNDAY

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THEME: God's love compels us to value relationships

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

P: We make our beginning in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

WE CONFESS OUR SINS...

P: As we gather to begin our year, we do well first to recognize our sins that separate us from God and from one another. We do so knowing that our God is gracious and forgiving.

C: Dear Gracious Father, we come before You acknowledging that the most important relationship that we have is the one that we have with You. You ask us to fear, love and trust You above all things.....but we have failed to make You our number one priority. We also come before You to acknowledge the importance of our relationship with our neighbors. You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves.....but we have often done what is best for ourselves forgetting our neighbor. Forgive us. Restore us. Make us to live for You and for our neighbor.

SONG OF CONFESSION: "Red Book" 157 "Open Our Eyes"

Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
Help us to listen
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus.

...HEARING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

P: God knows our hearts, our arrogance and pride, and yet He loves us and forgives us for this sin and for all our sins, the evil things we've done and the good we've failed to do. Through His Son Jesus, I announce His grace. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Gracious Father, you declare your almighty power in showing mercy and pity. Give to us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord

C: Amen

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[The First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-9](#)

God asks Ezekiel to warn the people through His word.

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

[The Second Lesson: Romans 13:1-10](#)

Love, honor and respect are the fulfillment of the Law.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

[CHOIR ANTHEM](#)

[“If Anybody Asks You”](#)

[The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:1-20](#)

Aim for reconciliation with those who have fallen.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

[THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE](#)

[SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 423 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"](#)

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose Ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you Lord, in deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul
By your Spirit send your power To our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,

Stirring us to ardent service, You're abundant life to share.

SERMON

"Task vs. Relational"

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was Crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated At the right hand of the father.
He will come again to judge the living And the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives
Offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all
Offerings, his Son offered for our salvation.

OFFERTORY

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God, and for all people according to their needs:
(Each prayer request will end with these words:
P: Lord in your mercy
C: Hear our prayer.)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

THE INVITATION

P: Welcome to the celebration! God who supplies our every need has given us this meal to share.
C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.
P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience Your presence in bread and wine.
C: Lord, we thank You for the bread of eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Red Book” 225 “I Love You, Lord”
I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice,
To worship You, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what You hear;
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.

“Red Book” 246 “What a Friend”
What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations, is there trouble any where?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who with all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

“Red Book” 81 “I am Jesus' Little Lamb”
I am Jesus' little lamb, ever
Glad at heart I am; for my Shepherd gently
Guides me, knows my need and well provides me; loves me
Every day the same, even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus
Is my staff and stay. When I hunger, Jesus
Feeds me, into pleasant pastures leads me; when I
Thirst, he bids me go where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, even
Now the Shepherd's lamb? And when my short life is
Ended, by his angel host attended, he shall
Fold me to his breast, there within his arms to rest.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC