

"Back to School with God" Sunday

PRELUDE "One Day at a Time"

1. I'm only human, I'm just a man/woman.

Help me believe in what I could be and all that I am.

Show me the stairway I have to climb.

Lord, for my sake, help me to take one day at a time.

Chorus:

One day at a time, sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking from You.

Just give me the strength to do everyday what I have to do.

Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine;

Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time.

2. Do you remember when you walked among men?

Well, Jesus, you know, if You're looking below, it's worse now than then.

Cheating and stealing, violence and crime;

So, for my sake, teach me to take one day at a time.

Chorus:

BACKPACK BLESSING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.
Reconciling God,
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**
**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
**By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ☩ Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING

Romans 12:1-8 (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 138 (NRSV)

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of
your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth. R**

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

**The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall
save me.

**You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of
your hands.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL
(NRSV)

Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

REFLECTION

Special Music ""Comfort, Comfort"

Chorus:

Comfort, comfort all my people

With the comfort of my Word.

Speak it tender to my people:

All your sins are taken away.

1. Though your tears be rivers running, though your tears be an ocean full;
you cry with the hurt of living:

Comfort, comfort.

Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, eve'ry mountain shall be low,

Ev'ry rough place will be smoother:

Comfort, comfort.

Chorus:

2. Though your eyes see only darkness, though your eyes can see no light,

Though your eyes see pain and sorrow:

Comfort, comfort.

Ev'ry night will have its morning, ev'ry pain will have an end,

Ev'ry burden will be lightened:

Comfort, comfort.

Chorus:

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
With your grace we are here today,
Nourish us through these gifts that we place before you:
our talents, our support for your church on earth and our hearts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. (All gathered are invited to share a sign of peace, maybe a wave or a peace sign, a hello from afar.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (transition into drive up communion)

"Joy and Thanksgiving"

Chorus:

Joy and thanksgiving in all our living. Why?

Because of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Joy and thanksgiving in all our living. Why?

Because of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

1. Praise Him with the instruments, praise Him with the dance.

Let the name of Jesus be adored.

Raise the royal banner; come on and clap your hands.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Chorus:

2. Shout it from the mountains to the valleys down below.

Jesus, He has come to set us free.

The waters of this fountain will never cease to flow.

Jesus Christ is Lord and King of kings.

Chorus:

Service modified from Sugar Creek Lutheran Church, Elkhorn, WI.'s bulletin, reflection by Vicar Lily Brellenthin

