



GOD THE INVENTOR OF RELATIONSHIPS

February 13 & 17, 2009

Opening Medley

"O Father, All Creating (LSB 858)

**O Father, all creating, Whose wisdom, love, and pow'r
First bound two lives together In Eden's primal hour,
Today to these Your children Your earliest gifts renew:
A home by You made happy, A love by You kept true.**

**With good wine, Lord, at Cana The wedding feast You blessed.
Grant also these Your presence, And be their dearest guest.
Their store of earthly gladness Transform to heav'nly wine,
And teach them, in the testing, To know the gift divine.**

**O Spirit of the Father, Breathe on them from above,
So searching in Your pureness, So tender in Your love
That, guarded by Your presence And kept from strife and sin,
Their hearts may heed Your guidance And know You dwell within**

**Unless You build it, Father, The house is built in vain;
Unless You, Savior, bless it, The joy will turn to pain.
But nothing breaks the union Of hearts in You made one;
The love Your Spirit hallows Is endless love begun.**

Pastor: God the Father created the world.

He created male and female. He designed man and woman for marriage.
He gave some the gift of the single life.

People: God the Son redeemed the world by his blood.

Pastor: He redeemed both male and female. He redeemed marriage and also the
single life.

People: God the Holy Spirit sanctifies the world.

Pastor: He helps us live as male and female. He is the third party in marriage. He
is God who walks with us and helps us make decisions.
Today we hear the Word of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit concerning
marriage.

Married Couples:

To enrich our marriages and review our vows.

Pastor: Today we hear the Word of God concerning the single life.

Singles & Divorced:

We desire to know God's will for our life. To better our relationships.

Pastor: Today we hear the Word of God for widows and widowers.

Widows and Widowers:

We desire to remember the many blessings God gives.

Pastor: Today we hear God's Word for instructing our youth.

Youth: We commit to God's Word about marriage and the single life for our future.

Pastor: But before we hear that Word, we bring our sins before our God, realizing that we have not always been perfect.

All: We have not always listened to our parents' instructions in regards to married and single life. We have sometimes been quarrelsome, let our tempers flare, and hurt others in our relationships. At times, whether in thought, word, or deed, adultery seemed to be the right way to go. Pictures, television, the internet can be very tempting. Lord, we have experienced divorce in our life, whether in our own life or in those around us. It is painful. Lord, we are sinful and need your forgiveness and healing. We need Your help and to hear Your Word again. We need your help to make changes in our life to live in accordance with Your Word.

Pastor: Dear friends, Christ Jesus came at just the right time. He knew and lived amidst broken relationships. Yet, instead of merely confronting sin with punishment, He called people to repentance and to belief that his death and resurrection do release them from their sins. This truth is also true for us today. As a result, I as a called and ordained servant of the Word in the stead and command of my Lord Jesus Christ, also forgive you of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Old Testament Lesson is from Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his just decrees then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

The Epistle Lesson is from Ephesians 5:22-31

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

(Please stand if you are able for the Gospel Lesson)

The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew 5:21-37

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has

already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. ³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. ³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

APOSTLES’ CREED (back cover of hymnal)
(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (8 am)

CHILDREN’S CHURCH (10:30 am)

SERMON HYMN

Oh, Blest the House (LSB 862)

**Oh, blest the house, whate’er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His —
How sad and poor and dark it is!**

**Oh, blest that house where faith is found
And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!**

**Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children’s foremost need
And weary not of care of cost.
May none to them and heav’n be lost!**

**Oh, blest that house; it prospers well.
In peace and joy the parents dwell,**

**And in their children's lives is shown
How richly God can bless His own.**

**Then here will I and mine today
A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!**

SERMON

"Christ and His Bride" (Text: Ephesians 5:22-31)

THE OFFERING

LITANY OF RENEWAL

Pastor: Now hear the Word of God with joy and confidence that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives and will enable us to learn, make changes, and grow. Solomon said, *"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance."* (Proverbs 1:5) Therefore, we too now listen. Some of these scripture passages will commend what we already do. Some passages will give us direction for improvement. Some passages will remind of us of our sin. But when they do, look to the cross and remember that you are forgiven. Satan himself is the one trying to get you to believe you have fallen from grace.

To the Youth

Pastor: Young men and young women, Solomon spent almost seven chapters of the book of Solomon teaching his own Son. Many of the Solomon's words warn of adultery and running off with the wayward wife:

Youth: *"For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. (Proverbs 5:3-4)*

Pastor: Therefore, we urge you to be careful of your eyes. Further, Saint Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:14-15:

Youth: *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?"*

Pastor: Keep these words in mind when you date and when the time comes to choose a spouse. Life will be much easier with a believer.

Also, we urge you wait till marriage to have sex for God says in Exodus and Deuteronomy, *"You shall not commit adultery"* (6th Commandment).

Dear youth, many adults here would love to go back to your place in life and start over, to take advantage of opportunities you have to serve God, and to prepare for marriage or the single life. Therefore, commit your ways now to the Word of the Lord. Will you commit yourselves to God's Word?

Youth: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and most gracious God, continue to send your blessing upon our youth. Give them opportunities to grow and prepare for married or single life. Help them to withstand the temptations the devil will throw at them and bring them to repentance when they fall. Send your Holy Spirit into their lives each day that they may inherit everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

To the Singles

Pastor: With all this talk about marriage it is important for us not to forget all the Bible teaches about the single life. In fact, a great number of people are single in the world today.

On the one hand, Proverbs tells us, "*He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*" On the other hand, Jesus and Saint Paul were single. Paul says in 1 Corinthians that:

Singles: The unmarried man and woman have more time to be concerned with the Lord's affairs, whereas the married man and woman must divide their interests between God and one another. (7:32-34)

Pastor: Paul also writes:

Singles: "*Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.*"

Pastor: For those of you looking for a spouse, remember that patience is a fruit of the Spirit.

Now that you have heard the Word of God, serve Him with your added time. Fight the good fight of faith. Dedicate your lives and bodies to Christ. Bring Christ into dating, courting, and all your relationships. Seek wisdom how to serve Him constantly.

Singles: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and most gracious God, continue to send your blessing on those who are single. Use them mightily as You used St. Paul and many of the prophets. Help others to respect the single life as honorable and God pleasing. For those divorced, bring godly healing. For those seeking marriage, give patience and prepare them for such a relationship so that You are glorified, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

To the Married Couples

Pastor: Marriage is an honorable estate, which God himself has instituted and blessed. The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in knowledge and love of the Lord.

Solomon in Proverbs 5:18-19 says to the married couples:

Married: ***"May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love."***

Pastor: Further, God cautions you to remain faithful in Hebrews 13:4,

Married: ***"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."***

Pastor: Paul also encourages those who are married to fulfill their marital duty to one another, as well as honor and love each other (I Cor. 7:1-7, Ephesians 6). Therefore, remember your wedding vows. And today before the Lord we reaffirm and renew your solemn marriage pledges made many years ago, to offer thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He has showered upon you, and to seek the Lord's continued gracious care.

(Husbands and wives please turn and face your spouse)

Husbands, do you in the presence of God and of this congregation reaffirm the pledge you made when you took to yourself this woman as your wife?

Husbands:

I do.

Pastor: Wives, do you in the presence of God and of this congregation reaffirm the pledge you made when you took to yourself this man as your husband?

Wives: I do.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and most gracious Father, continue to send your blessing upon these couples, who have here reaffirmed their pledges to each other. Grant them your grace that they may never cease to love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness. May their lives together be a witness to your love and forgiveness and their home a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

To the Widowed

Pastor: The LORD has many words to say to those who are widowed. Along with orphans and the oppressed God especially values those who are widowed.

Widows: *“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.”*

Pastor: Paul teaches families to care for older widows and for the church to care for widows who do not have families. Paul also urges younger widows to get married.

Widows: *“No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.” (1 Timothy 5:9)*

Pastor: Dear friends in Christ, now that you have heard God’s Word concerning those who have lost spouses. Commit yourself to their care.

All: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Dear widows and widowers, dedicate yourselves to the service of God. Those of you who are younger be patient as you search for a spouse.

Widows: We will with the help of God.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and most gracious God, continue to send your blessing on those who have lost spouses. Defend them, provide for them, and enable them to be examples for the whole church. Help your church to care for those who are in need. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

All: Amen

PRAYERS

LORD’S PRAYER

(Sunday: 10:30 am:)

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (LSB page 216)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

Pastor: It is truly good, right and salutary that..... one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Back cover of the hymnal)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Your Table I Approach *LSB 628*

Sent Forth by God's Blessing *LSB 643*

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG:

Christ Be My Leader *LSB 861*

**Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**

**Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as san,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**

**Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness, for doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

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