

As we've heard the last couple of weeks, Jesus has invited us to repent and has called us out of our shame to share the goodness of God's grace and mercy. Now, Jesus shows us a bit of how to go about it. We so often hear of how it is that we are supposed to be as followers of Christ. It's in the implementation of that that we often get it wrong. When we do things so that we can say we've done them, we're doing it wrong. But, when we do them because that is how Jesus would do it, then we're getting somewhere. Today, Jesus shows us what that look like.

**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**

### Announcements

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.  
**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.  
We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus  
Christ.

**Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn

**“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

**#324 vs. 1,2,4**

### Prayer of the Day

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Children's Message

#### Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke 7:36-40**

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. <sup>37</sup>And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. <sup>38</sup>She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup>Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

When you think of Jesus, and his ministry, and who it is that most frequently challenges just about every move he makes in his ministry, who comes to mind?

Pharisees. That's right.

The most common mention of folks who challenge him, question him, press him on the work he does and who it is that he reaches out to, are the Pharisees. Really quick dictionary.com definition of Pharisees says they "are an ancient Jewish sect, distinguished by strict observance of the traditional and written law, and commonly held to have pretensions to superior sanctity."

So, they challenge Jesus on just about everything he does because he is a challenge to the way of life and learning and teaching as they know it. And, he comes with a certain level of superior sanctity, or being holy, about him.

So, imagine for a moment, put yourself in Jesus shoes, how you might be feeling when a Pharisee invites you into their home to eat. How might you respond? I would guess that many of us would say no thank you. We'd maybe make up an excuse, perhaps not feeling well, or we've got other plans, whatever it might be. But, I would venture to guess that dining with a person who challenges just about every aspect of your existence and life and mission on earth is not something that is on top of your wishlist for the day.

But.

Jesus accepts.

Jesus accepts the invitation and takes his place reclined at the table of a Pharisee.

Jesus, in this moment, invites us to be genuine.

The message that Jesus preaches and teaches, which the Pharisees often challenge, is all good and wonderful, but we can learn just as much, if not more, from the lessons that Jesus preaches and teaches with his very actions. A less genuine person who preaches the message that Jesus preaches and teaches the lessons that Jesus teaches may very well stop at the words that come out of their mouths, but Jesus also acts. He shows those who hear his messages what it actually looks like to LIVE the message that he delivers.

And it changes us.

But, in that moment, a woman comes in and starts to wipe his feet with her tears, drying them with her hair and anointing them with oils. The Pharisee, who has done the look good thing of inviting Jesus in, is beside himself. “Does this man even know who this is that is doing this to him? She is a SINNER!”

But, Jesus being Jesus, doesn’t immediately shun Simon for the thoughts that he is having about the situation. “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And Simon responds, “Teacher, speak.”

Jesus goes on to tell the following:

“A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?” <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.” <sup>44</sup> Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little.” <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Jesus sees right through Simon’s actions. Jesus sees that Simon’s invitation is not genuine, rather it is done because he thinks that is what he is supposed to do, and at the very least will make him look good.

Jesus doesn’t want us to do things because we think they are what we are supposed to do. Jesus doesn’t want us to do things because we think they are going to make us look good in God’s eyes.

Jesus wants us to be genuine. Jesus wants us to do the things that we do because those things are what our neighbor needs. As Martin Luther puts it, “God doesn’t need your good works, your neighbor does.”

And, when we do the things we do because they are what someone else needs, and not because we think they will make us look good, then we are being genuine.

Jesus calls us to examine just that. Jesus invites us to look at all of the things we might do as people of faith and ask ourselves why we do it. Is it for recognition? Is it because we think we are supposed to?

Or, is it because our neighbor needs it? That is what it means to be genuine. That is what Jesus invites us to.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

**Mission Offering – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Endowment Fund Appeal**

**Hymn of the Day**

**“How Great Thou Art”**

**#856**

**Apostle’s Creed**

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*We pray especially for Matt, David, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Cherri, Peggy, John, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Dan and Sharon, Roger and MaryLee*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**Amen.**

## 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**

**Communion #471 & #483**

**Prayer**

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Jesus invites us into the world! Go in peace!

**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**

And all of Good Shepherd said...

**AMEN!**

**Sending Song**

**“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

**#543 vs. 1,3**

**Blessing**

Beloved,  
we are God’s own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## 2024 Financial Snapshot

Month of February

Year-to-Date

Total Revenue **\$20,465** **\$60,769**

Total Expenses **\$21,317** **\$45,975**

Difference **-\$852** **\$14,794**

## GOOD FRIDAY QUILT RAFFLE QUILTS ON DISPLAY IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

\$10/ticket or 3 for \$20



Pieced, quilted and  
donated by Betty Davey  
60" x 80" (#1)



Pieced and tied by  
LCGS Quilters  
50" x 64" (#2)



Pieced and tied by  
LCGS Quilters  
59" x 59" (#3)

**GOOD SHEPHERD ~ GOOD FRIDAY  
FISH FRY**

**MARCH 29  
4- 6 PM**

FISH, POTATOES,  
GREEN BEANS, COLE  
SLAW, DINNER ROLLS,  
DESSERT  
FREE WILL DONATION

MAC & CHEESE AND  
CHICKEN NUGGETS  
KIDS MEAL

QUILT RAFFLE  
SPONSORED BY: LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ENDOWMENT

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

APRIL 21 - GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY  
DRAWN TO THE WORD  
AT GOOD SHEPHERD