

August 6th, 2023
10th Sunday after Pentecost



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Also join us for Bible Study at 11:00am.

DEFINE CHRISTIAN

Ask ten different people to define Christian and you may get ten different answers. One might say, “A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus.” Okay. But the demons believe that Jesus exists and is the Son of God. So is that definition adequate? Another person might have a more negative view. He says, “A Christian is someone who believes he is better than others.” Is that completely false? And if you aren’t humble, does that mean you aren’t Christian?

In our next worship series Christ himself defines the term Christian and describes what Christians do. We will be struck by how often we do not do all those things. There likely are times when people could look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Yet throughout this series Jesus will demonstrate that ultimately a Christian is one who runs to Christ for forgiveness precisely because he has failed to live like what he is—a Christian. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to better fit Christ’s beautiful definition, doing all the things Jesus says that Christians do.

THE CHRISTIAN TRUSTS GOD TO PROVIDE

The hardest times to trust in God are the times we need him most. It’s easy to trust God when your job is great, your health is fine, your relationships are strong, your family is well. It’s easy to trust God when the sun is shining, but what happens when your life is suddenly overshadowed by dark days?

When tragedy or conflict affect us, we may wonder if God continues to care and provide for us. At those times the Christian focuses on certain foundational facts. The Christian was chosen, predestined, and adopted as God’s dear child. God has provided the Christian with innumerable spiritual blessings and promises the Christian an eternity of glory, peace, and joy. If we look at those spiritual blessing God provides to us, how could we doubt that he will, at the right time, give us everything we truly need? The Christian trusts God to provide.

Stand

♪ O Lord, open my lips,
♪ **and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

♪ Hasten to save me, O God;
♪ **O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

♪ The Spirit of the Lord fills the world:
♪ **praise and thanks to God!**

♪ **O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord** ♪

CW 208

**1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.**

**2 For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
the heights of the hills are also his.**

**3 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hand formed the dry land.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**4 For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.**

Be seated

♪ 136C We Thank You, LORD, for You Are Good

Psalm 136C

- 1 We thank you, LORD, for you are good;
your mercy lives forever.
Your kindness from of old has stood;
your love will keep us ever.
O God of gods, O sov'reign Lord,
we bless you now with one accord:
your love is everlasting.**

- 2 You, Lord, alone did wondrous deeds;
your mercy lives forever.
From you alone all good proceeds;
your love will keep us ever.
Your wisdom made the heav'ns to be;
you formed the earth above the sea:
your love is everlasting.**

- 3 You made the starry lights to rise;
your mercy lives forever.
Your glories shine in radiant skies;
your love will keep us ever.
Your glowing moon enhances night;
your sun brings forth each morning's light:
your love is everlasting.**

- 4 You rescue us from ev'ry foe;
your mercy lives forever.
You feed your creatures here below;
your love will keep us ever.
We give you thanks, Creator, Lord;
we sing the glories of your Word;
your love is everlasting.**

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FIRST READING

1 KINGS 17:1–6

¹Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

²Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: ³“Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. ⁴You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

⁵So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 1:3–10

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:13–21

¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

¹⁶Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

¹⁸“Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹And he directed the people to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN: ALL PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE

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SERMON

EPHESIANS 1:3-10

Stand

♪ We Praise You, O God ♪

CW 210

- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
all creation worships you, Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'nly hosts,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.**

- 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and only Son;
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.**

- 5 When you became man to set us free,
you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

- 6 You sit at the right hand of God
in the glory of the Father.
We believe that you will come
to be our judge.**

- 7 Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213

- ♪ Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.
♪ Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Prayers of intercession, seasonal prayers, and the Prayer of the Day may be offered.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

♪ Let us praise the Lord.

♪ **Thanks be to God.**

♪ The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪ **Amen.**

HYMN: I WILL SING OF MY REDEEMER

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Acknowledgments

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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