Hero Hospital VBS Part 5 – A Place for Discovery

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Today, we gather for worship, giving thanks that God is with us. We celebrate and love God, who is our Creator, + our Teacher, and our Guide. **Amen.**

We come to God to confess our sins; to share with God the ways that we hurt one another, creation, ourselves, and God.

God, our healer,

**Sometimes we hurt each other by only seeing one part of who someone is; like their disability, sickness, race, gender, or language and we forget that they are first and foremost a person, your child.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by giving in to fear, by failing to have the heroic courage to be there for each other when things are tough.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other and ourselves by losing hope and closing ourselves off from others instead of reaching out to rely on each other.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by judging one another instead of helping one another.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other by turning our backs on science, creativity, and discovery; the things you give us to help us learn how to take care of each other.**

**Sometimes we hurt each other simply by forgetting to say thank you with our words and actions.**

**The ways that we hurt each other, ourselves, and creation are the ways that we hurt you God because you have created and you love everyone and everything. We are truly sorry and we ask that you accept our apology and forgive us.**

God’s love is unconditional and it lasts forever; the kingdom of God is full of God’s outrageous love. God accepts our apology and + forgives us of our sins. Now God asks us to do better by caring for and loving one another like God does. **Amen.**

Gathering Song Earth and All Stars ELW 731

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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

God, your kingdom is a place for discovery and you ask us to live out our faith in you by building your kingdom here on earth. You give us free will, curiosity, creativity, cooperation, and intelligence so that we can discover more and more ways to love and serve you and one another, so we can make the world a better place. Help us to listen to your creative spirit so that we keep discovering news ways to heal one another.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God’s peace with one another.

Historical Guide Hildegard of Bingen

Hildegard Von Bingen is considered by many to be the world’s oldest composer with surviving work. In other words, Hildegard’s musical compositions from the 12th century CE are the oldest pieces of music still played today with a known author. But that’s not all, she was the abass of a monastery and wrote extensively about faith in God and her own prophetic visions. But that’s still not all. She conducted research about healing and health by reading the many texts in her library and practicing healing herself leading to two important books on medicine that she wrote herself. Her book *Physica* was even used for many years as a medical school textbook. Hildegard was an early scientist whose research sets her apart as an essential leader in healthcare. She is considered a Catholic Saint and was even declared in 2012 to be a Doctor of the Church by the pope. She’s even become a bit of a pop culture icon with references to her person or work popping up in all kinds of books, movies, and TV shows. Yet, lots of this attention misses the point. Hildegard Von Bingen wasn’t some attention-seeking magical worker. She was a hard-working leader of deep faith who never stopped striving for more ways to help others even while managing her own experience with debilitating migraines.

Hildegard used her gifts to help build God’s kingdom!

**Thanks be to God!**

Bible Reading Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The gospel according to St. Matthew the 8th chapter Matthew 8:1-13

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

When [Jesus] entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress." And [Jesus] said to [the man who was a centurion], "I will come and cure him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, "Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you according to your faith." And the servant was healed in that hour.

The gospel of our Lord**.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon (preaching notes)

* Big question: Why do some people recover from an illness or disability when others don’t?
* We don’t always know why someone does not recover from an illness or disability, sometimes it does not make sense and it is not right.
* We do know that there are things we can do to help people recover!
  + Access. Sometimes people do not recover because they do not have access to the medicine or the treatments or the people that can help them. Some people in Jesus’ world thought that a person like a Roman soldier should not have had access to a person like Jesus. Because Jesus welcomed all, the centurion had access to Jesus and Jesus helped his servant. In Acts, the people in this community pooled all of their resources so that anyone who was in need had access to the resources that could help them.
  + Discovery/Invention. Sometimes people do not recover because the medicines, treatments, cures have not been discovered yet! God gave us free will, creativity, cooperation, and intelligence and wants us to use these gifts to help one another, to make the world a better place. When we support discovery and people like Hildegard Von Bingen who used her intelligence and creativity to make discoveries then we help more people to recover from illnesses or receive the care they need so they can manage their illness or disability.

Hymn of the Day We Come to You for Healing, Lord ELW 617

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Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,** **creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,** **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,** **born of the virgin Mary,** **suffered under Pontius Pilate,** **was crucified, died, and was buried;** **he descended to the dead.** **On the third day he rose again;** **he ascended into heaven,** **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,** **and he will come 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.**

Prayers of the People (Congregational Response: **“hear our prayer”**)

*(these prayers were taken from Sundays and Seasons)*

Let us come before God in prayer.

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets, like Hildegard Von Bingen, who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

Offering

God, thank you for the gifts and talents that you give each of us. Thank you for the financial gifts that we receive in this congregation. Bless us with generous and grateful hearts and hands. Help us to use all of these gifts in service as we build, here on earth, Jesus’ vision of the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

The Meal

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,

who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,

who preached good news to the poor,

and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,

we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,

the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

God’s kingdom is a place for discovery. Join in the meal where all are welcome.

You are invited to prepare your bread. *We all eat our bread from our seats after the Pastor says,* “The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**”

You are invited to prepare your wine/juice. *We all drink our wine/juice from our seats after the Pastor says,* “The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**”

Please put your masks back on.

Blessing

Now may the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

In this meal of communion, we have been reminded once again of God’s outrageous love. God, strengthen us in body and in spirit that we might go out into the world and share your outrageous love in everything we say and do. In the name of Jesus, who shows us what true love looks like, **Amen.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song This Little Light of Mine ELW 677

Public Domain

Sending

Go in peace, building the kingdom of God.

**Thanks be to God.**