



“Completely Dependent”

Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 8:00 am

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Labor Day Weekend
(Contemporary Service)

AS WE GATHER

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus’ disciples asked. Our Lord responded by welcoming a child into His midst. “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Children are highly valued by our gracious God because they are completely dependent. On their own, they have nothing, yet they need everything. This is true for all of us in our relationship with God! On our own, we have only our sinful, broken lives and are unable to please God and fulfill His commands. Yet, in Jesus Christ, we possess everything we need! Forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of life forever with God are freely given to those who turn from their sin and receive the forgiveness earned by our crucified and risen Savior. In Jesus, we are, like children, completely dependent. We have nothing to offer, yet everything we need is ours to receive from the gracious hands of our Savior.

Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk ().*

THE PRELUDE

Praise Team

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME

Pastor Chris Matthis

***OPENING MEDLEY**

“Sweetly Broken”

Jeremy Riddle

To the cross I look
To the cross I cling
Of its suffering I do drink
Of its work I do sing

For on it my Savior
Both bruised and crushed
Showed that God is Love
And God is just

*At the cross You beckon me
Draw me gently to my knees, and I am Lost for words, so lost in love
I'm sweetly broken, wholly surrendered*

What a priceless gift, undeserved life
Have I been given
Through Christ crucified

You've called me out of death
You've called me into life
I was under Your Wrath
Through the cross I'm reconciled

*At the cross You beckon me
Draw me gently to my knees, and I am Lost for words, so lost in love
I'm sweetly broken, wholly surrendered*

*At the cross You beckon me
Draw me gently to my knees, and I am Lost for words, so lost in love
I'm sweetly broken, wholly surrendered*

In awe of the cross I must confess
How wondrous Your Redeeming Love and How great is Your Faithfulness

*At the cross You beckon me
Draw me gently to my knees, and I am Lost for words, so lost in love
I'm sweetly broken, wholly surrendered*

*At the cross You beckon me
Draw me gently to my knees, and I am Lost for words, so lost in love
I'm sweetly broken, wholly surrendered*

“Sanctuary”

*Lord, prepare me To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy Tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You*

*It is you, Lord Who came to save
The heart and soul Of every man
It is you Lord Who knows my weakness
Who gives me strength, with Thine own hand*

*Lord, prepare me To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy Tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You*

*Lead Me on Lord From temptation
Purify me From within
Fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit
Take away all my sin*

*Lord, prepare me To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy Tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You*

“Lord, I Need You”

Matt Maher

*Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

*Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

*So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
When I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay*

*Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

*You're my one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

*My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You*

+ PREPARATION +

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and ✠ of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 32:1*

Pastor: Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.

Pastor: Most merciful Father,

People: we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake

upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.

Pastor: “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.” God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT

Ezekiel 33:7-9

(Yahweh makes Ezekiel a watchman over Israel.)

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32:1-7

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

People: whose sin is covered.

Pastor: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,

People: and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Pastor: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

People: through my groaning all day long.

Pastor: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

People: my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

People: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;

People: surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

Pastor: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;

People: You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:1-10

(The government is ordained by God, to serve His will.)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:1-20

(Become like children to enter God’s kingdom)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SOLO

"Faith Is Like A Child"

Mary Wenkheimer

The piece is *"Faith Is Like A Child"* by Tom Fettke, © 1989 and 1980 Lillenas Publishing Company. "A child, faith is like a child, Simple in its spirit, generous and kind; Willing to accept what cannot be denied or be defined. One thing, simple child-like faith and nothing more. That's all Jesus Christ has ever asked us for. Simple childlike faith and nothing more. A child, faith is like a child. Innocent and trusting even in its doubt. Honest in its

search and trying hard to find what God's about. One thing, simple child-like faith and nothing more. That's all Jesus Christ has ever asked us for. Simple childlike faith and nothing more."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCE Kristin Schmidt

SERMON SONG

"Tis So Sweet"

David Hunt

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"*

*Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood
And in simple faith to plunge me
Neath the healing, cleansing flood!*

*I wil trust in You,
I will trust in You
Love has proved you o'er and o'er
Oh, for grace to trust You more!*

*Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease
Just from Jesus simply taking
Life and rest, and joy and peace.*

*I wil trust in You,
I will trust in You
Love has proved you o'er and o'er
Oh, for grace to trust You more!
Oh, for grace to trust You more!
Oh, for grace to trust You more!*

SERMON

Pastor Chris Matthis

***CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And, in Jesus Christ His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

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***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

***THE 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.

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless You and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*You are the Lord
The famous one, famous one
Great is Your name in all the earth
The heavens declare
You're glorious, glorious
Great is Your fame beyond the earth*

*For all You've done and yet to do
With every breath I'm praising You
Desire of the nations and every heart
You alone are God
You alone are God*

*You are the Lord
The famous one, famous one
Great is Your name in all the earth
The heavens declare
You're glorious, glorious
Great is Your fame beyond the earth*

*The morning star is shining through
And every eye is watching You
Revealed by nature and miracles
You are beautiful
You are beautiful*

*You are the Lord
The famous one, famous one
Great is Your name in all the earth
The heavens declare
You're glorious, glorious
Great is Your fame beyond the earth*

*You are the Lord
The famous one, famous one
Great is Your name in all the earth
The heavens declare
You're glorious, glorious
Great is Your fame beyond the earth*

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

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Epiphany Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, Colorado

550 E. Wolfensberger Rd. + Castle Rock, CO 80109 + Office: 303-688-4435

Website: www.epiphanylc.org

ME SYSTEM LINK: <https://epiphanylc.ccbchurch.com/login.php>

Pastor Chris Matthis + Cell: 303-921-0717

pastorchris@epiphanylc.org

(Pastor available by appointment)

DCE Kristin Schmidt + Cell: 951-775-6134 + Tu-F 8 am - 4 pm

dce@epiphanylc.org

Mrs. Donata Rolf + office@epiphanylc.org + Office hours: M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Ms. Mary Wenkheimer, Choir Director + choir@epiphanylc.org

Ms. Debbie Stewart, Accounting Assistant + accounting@epiphanylc.org

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"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

