

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
January 19, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Christian Magnell

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN *“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God has called us His Children, adopted us, and set us free to live for Him. So, we worship in the name

of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, help us to see how we fall short. Help us to see that we’ve failed to live for you and for others. *(time for reflection)*

Lord God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deeds. We’ve done things you forbid and failed to do the things which you want from us. We haven’t loved you and the people around us like we should. Forgive us. Renew us. Set us free to live for you every day.

Here is the Good News: for the sake of Christ, we are forgiven. The Bible tells us that while we were sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Let’s celebrate that!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON “Look Ahead”

HYMN *“Nobody Loves Me Like You”*

READING: Ephesians 1:1-23

Here in the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul emphasizes that it’s by faith, by God’s selection, guaranteed through Christ, that we are saved.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to

himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him,

things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. ¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and

of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: John 6:35-40

Jesus tells us he is the bread of life, and he will hold on to those people that the Father has given to him. This brings hope: that God will hold on to us!

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but

the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

HYMN

"Goodness of God"

SERMON – "God's Choice: You! Ephesians Week 1"

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION “The Table”

PRAYER AND BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

Amen!

CLOSING SONG

“Hold Us Together”

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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**It's Not About You – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

*“Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him.”*

**- Ephesians 1:4**

Choosing things can be kind of fun, but it can also be exhausting. Take the cereal aisle for example. If you want a box of cereal, it feels like there are 63,000 choices. In fact, there are so many choices that it almost makes your eyes gloss over if you don't know what you're looking for. Yet we love choices. Restaurants, grocery stores, car dealerships and so many other retailers spend a great effort making sure you can get exactly what you want, when you want it, how you want it. Fees may apply.

With our faith, however, we hear something different: we don't do the choosing, God does. He chose us for a purpose: to live our lives for Him and to be “holy and blameless.” It doesn't mean we'll be sin free; rather, it is talking about how God sees us. Holy. Blameless. Created for a purpose. Forgiven.

That is God's choice. He chooses you and it's not in vain. He created you - on purpose - and has plans for you. This week, during your devotional time, remember to spend some of it asking God for your purpose that day. Ask how you can live in a way which honors what He has done for you.

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