



FOCUSED OUTREACH

Worship Folder for August 30, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor	Sam Biebert	Church Office	763.689.5333
Contact Information	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	Webpage	www.christcambridge.com

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | AUGUST 31 – September 6

SUNDAY 9:00am Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Gone Pastor will be out of town from September 3-7. Worship will be streamed from Cross of Christ in Coon Rapids on Sunday, September 6. If you need to get a hold of Pastor, please reach him on his cell phone at 701 471-0341. Thank you.

Work Day – TODAY! We have a few things to get done around our building before the school year starts up! Work will begin TODAY at 3:00pm! Please come if you would like to help or supervise!

New Materials The new Meditations and Forward in Christ are available on the entryway table. Make sure to grab your copy of each!

Canvassing Following church today, we will be going out canvassing for about an hour. Please consider joining us!

Community Service We are hosting a food drive and school supply drive On August 31 from 1-3pm. Thank you so much for the huge amount of supplies donated! What an awesome display of care for those in need!

Challenge Week #7 We have all been blessed with different gifts. While some of us are more outgoing than others, try to step out of your comfort zone this week, if only in a small way. Here are some suggestions:

- Look at your "focus". Where has it been? Have you been struggling finding and feeling meaningful rest? Write down the things that give you stress or unrest and then write down how Jesus takes that burden off of you. If you need help with this please do not hesitate to reach out to pastor!
- Think about the peace you have in life and death through Jesus! Thank God for it and keep your eyes open for someone struggling with that peace. Offer to meet them here at church on Sunday or set up a time to talk with pastor with them.
- Turn off the television, take a break from social media and use that time to be in God's Word, by yourself or, even better yet, as a family! Talk about how news outlets just care about the news of the day and how Jesus cares about informing you for eternity!

"Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Brian M., Austin M., Brian L. **Counters:** Brian K., Paul
Cleaners: David & Rebecca F., Steve & Jane O.

welcome

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (Christian Worship #389)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)

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

Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,

We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,

We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Can you hear the frustration in Moses' voice? Can you sense the worry? Since their great fall with the golden calf, God had refused to go with the people of Israel. He would send an angel, but he himself would not accompany them. Moses pleaded with God to go up to the Promised Land with them. Though the Israelites had sinned greatly, Moses reminded the LORD that they were God's people. God responded in grace and mercy and promised Moses that his very Presence would go with them, and he himself would give Moses rest. Can you hear the confidence in Moses' voice after God's promise? Can you sense the devotion? "Show me your glory!" Then God took this man yoked to him in faith and in service, and he showed Moses all the glory he could mortally bear.

First Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you yourself have been telling me, 'Lead this people up,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ So now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight. Consider that this nation is your people."¹⁴ The LORD said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."¹⁵ Moses said to him, "If your Presence is not going to go with me, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ After all, how would people know that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Isn't it in this way: that you go with us, so that we are distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?"¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have said, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory."¹⁹ The LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy."²⁰ He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."²¹ The LORD also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. ²² It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen."

The Christian life is a battle between the sinful flesh and the new man born in us through baptism. The Old Adam wages constant war. Where can we find any rest from this kind of fight? Paul's words ring true in our lives: all the good I want to do, but I fail to accomplish; all the evil I have promised never to do again, but repeat within a day. I want to do good, but I just can't make it happen! What a wretched person I am! I just want rest from this battle— rest from my failure. Who can save me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came to give rest to weary and burdened souls.

Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25A

¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not keep doing what I want. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But now it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ Indeed, I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. ¹⁹ So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me.²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. ²² I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, ²³ but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the

law of sin, which is present in my members. ²⁴ What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia. (Luke 8:15)

Though they had seen many signs of Christ's deity, Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum failed to repent. Jesus warned them of the coming wrath. Then he turned to his followers and praised God that the Lord of heaven and earth had revealed the truth of Jesus' identity to the little children who believe in him. He has no words of judgment for his followers. He has only words of invitation, of comfort, of rest. Yes, the rest comes with a yoke—but look at whose yoke it is! Our Savior's humble and gentle heart leads him to give us an easy yoke, a light burden, and rest for our souls. Christianity is not a religion of rules meant to impinge on our freedom; it does not call us to endlessly labor for God's favor; it does not leave us to work things out on our own. No, it frees us from the burden of carrying our sin and puts Christ in its place. It connects us to Jesus that we might learn from him. It gives us the rest our weary souls so desperately need.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. ²⁷ Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Sermon on Matthew 11:25-30

Theme: "How To Stay Focused"

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Theme "How To Stay Focused"

8/30/2020

How do you stay focused at work? Is it the people you work with and how they push you to do better? Is it a love for your job and who it impacts or what you get to do, where you get to go or the people you get to meet? Is it sheer determination, a well-timed cup of coffee and the knowledge that vacation is coming? Or maybe, the way you stay focused at work has nothing to do with work but, rather, your time away from work. Maybe it is how you relax in the evenings, maybe it is making sure you go to bed at the right time or have enough time to wake up and settle into your day? Maybe it is what your job allows you to do, the time you get to

take off, the stuff it allows you to buy, the life it allows you to live. All these things are different ways that people stay focused, stay rested, and energizes us to press on.

I am sure we can all get behind something in that previous list, or something like those things mentioned. In fact, I would imagine, we hardly even missed what was not in that list, the most important way to stay focused. God would argue it is THE way to stay focused. Those other things we talked about are certainly blessings and most certainly add to the reasons we have to be thankful but if they all went away, we would still be able to focus, we might be able to do it even better.

Now before you shut off your ears in disagreement, hear God out. Hear him out regarding our focus when it comes to the things of this world and hear him out when it comes to how this relates to our outreach. Today, we are finishing up our look at “Focused Outreach”. And we finish it up recognizing this is hard, it requires us to stay focused, it requires us to find rest and it requires us to know where to go when those things are the very things we are struggling with. With all this in mind, I pray we see just how much we have to glean from God’s Word today and so let us listen as we go to Matthew 11 once more:

²⁵ At that time, Jesus continued, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. ²⁷ Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him. ²⁸ “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Why do you need rest in general? The natural answer to that question is so that our bodies and brains are fresh. The person working a desk job can have fatigue just like the person working a more physically demanding job. Both are work, both require rest. But it is natural for us to individually think that the stresses of our work are more demanding or at the very same level as another’s. It is natural for us to consider rest something we have earned through our own work. Is that what God is talking about here?

Actually, it is the opposite. Salvation is not something we need to be able to think about on a higher level to obtain or to have a specific skill set to earn. So much so, that the more we try to reason it out or the more we try to earn it ourselves, the more unobtainable it becomes. It is so simple that it can be easier for little children to grasp it than it is for the strongest or wisest of adults.

So, why do we need rest. If it really is that simple, how can we get weary or for that matter, why do we need to be told to come to Jesus? How can we become burdened? That answer

comes through growth in seeing ourselves and consequently, our sinfulness. The ones who are weary and burdened are the very same ones who see their sin clearly, the ones who are weighed down by what they have and have not done. It is here, in this understanding, that we see Jesus clearly and have a weight lifted off their backs by Christ. It is a freeing gift because it does not have to be figured out, it does not have to be earned or deserved. Jesus simply tells us; this is what you have in and through me.

So, is that it? Just a reminder, we can say “Amen” and go on our way? The sinful side of us would like that wouldn't it? We would love to ignore how often we not only forget this but try to find our rest away from God's Word! Hearing God's Word can seem like work. Sharing God's Word can seem draining. Trying to apply God's Word to present day situations and to children and adults can seem overwhelming. It can be easy to think we need a rest from God's Word. Additionally, God's Word can seem burdensome to joy with all of its encouragements that go so far against the way our minds reason. It points out my faults and how inadequate I am. Come to Jesus for rest? How about I just block out an hour each week and leave it at that? We love to think we know best and we know what is best for ourselves, body and soul.

But what a dangerous thought! What an unhealthy mindset and what a stress to our life and soul! Imagine if your boss told you that you needed to work all week but, hey, you can take an hour off on Sunday morning! I am not so sure that job would be appealing to anyone. What is more, Jesus wants to give us deep meaningful rest. He wants us to be rested down to our very core, to have rest for our souls. This is the very thing he knows and he knows how best to sooth it. Here is the one who created it telling you and me what it needs and how to get it. Here is the one who loves you deeply, the one who desires you, the one who spilled his blood to make sure you could always be near.

Yes, here is God revealing a secret to you and me. A secret hidden from you, me and this world if we rely only on our minds. A secret our sinful minds do not want to hear but a secret our souls scream for and a secret this fallen world seeks for. It is the secret to real rest. It is a secret to keep our focus, a secret to contentment and peace. And wonder of wonders, look who gives it to you. Here is the one who breathed into being the breath of the wind. Here is the one who ordered this world, the sun and moon, the one who formed the human population with his very own hands and put his breath of life in them. Here is the one who watched as we rejected him. Here is the one who authored the fix to our condition, again with his breath, but this time by giving it up in sacrifice for you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this rest is what you need personally. It is not only the rest you need for your soul but it is also the rest the next person you talk to about Jesus needs. They are not going to figure it out on their own. The only place they can get it is in God's Word. It is the rest you need when we face rejection to this message. It is the rest we need when we face rejection and opposition. It is the rest we need when the burden of our sins falls heavy on our

backs. It is the rest we need when our own inadequacies look us square in the face. It is the rest we need to know and be able to share when a close friend or relative is struggling. It is rest that lifts every single one of our burdens off our backs and places it on Jesus. It is the message of eternity. It is the message of peace. It takes the burden off of this life and points us to our life in Christ.

Today we end our series on focused outreach but it does not end our outreach. We need to stay focused. We need to keep the focus on Christ. Outreach is a hard thing, and there will be days to come when we don't want to keep going or days when it feels like no one wants to listen and we need a rest. In those times as well Jesus says "Come to me and you will find rest for your souls." God help us to joy in this rest and the focus it continually gives us. Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

O Lord, our God, we praise and thank you again this day for all the blessings you have poured out on us. You have made yourself known to us through your Word that we might know your great love for us. You have supplied us with all that we need for our bodies and lives and done so with an abundance that many in this world cannot imagine. Most importantly of all, you have assured us that our sins have been forgiven in Jesus. Pardon our short-sightedness and lack of insight that sometimes fails to see or refuses to acknowledge your work in our lives when it comes in ways that aren't according to our preference or plan. Give us the ability to always rejoice in you and serve you faithfully in every circumstance.

Lord of creation, we come to you on behalf of the many in our country who are being or have been impacted by the natural disasters that have come to them: the fires in California; the heat in the Southwest; the hurricane in the Atlantic; the windstorms in the Midwest, to name a few. The events humble us because they remind us of our limited power and abilities. They also remind us that in and of ourselves we have no basis to ask for deliverance from them because so many in our country have turned their backs on you. We therefore plead for your mercy. Grant deliverance according to your good pleasure and restoration according to your mercy. Lead those who have been affected by these events to turn to you as their God and Savior, not just from earthly difficulties, but more importantly from sin and eternal damnation.

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you have invited us to pray to you and promised that you will hear us through the merits of your Son Jesus. In that confidence we pray also as he has 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.

Children's Message

BLESSING:

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.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: "May the Peace of God"(Christian Worship Supplement #745)