Hero Hospital VBS Part 3 – A Place for Hope

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 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less ELW 596

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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 hope and you ask us to live out our faith in you by building your kingdom here on earth. Hope is the reminder that you created us, you know us, you love us, and you are always with us. When we go through difficult things it can be hard for us to have hope. Help us to remind one another of the hope that we have in you, by always supporting and relying on each other.

**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 Saint Fabiola

We don’t know Fabiola’s whole story but we know quite a bit from the eulogy written for her by Saint Jerome as well as some possible letters written to her from Saint Augustine and from Jerome. Fabiola, a noble woman of 4th century CE Rome, is also an official saint of the Catholic Church. In the Lutheran Church we see her as both saint and sinner, like all of us. Fabiola’s first husband was awful and she was able to divorce him under Roman law and marry someone else. She did exactly that, but the church of the time disapproved. They hadn’t figured out yet that God’s grace includes a woman who is divorced. Some say that what Fabiola did next was out of a desire to restore her standing in the church but it seems pretty clear that she was motivated by genuine compassion. Fabiola sold her belongings and used the fortune to start what appears to be the world’s first public hospital. Everyone was welcome there, no strings attached, and Fabiola brought in the best physicians of the time to provide 24-hour care while serving many patients herself. The hospital was such a huge success that Fabiola petitioned with church leaders like Jerome to have new cathedrals and churches include space and money for more hospitals. Fabiola left a legacy of care and concern for others that ensured places of hope and healing be built for countless people.

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

**Thanks be to God!**

Bible Reading 1 Kings 17:10-16

So [Elijah] set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that God spoke by Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The gospel according to St. Luke the 8th chapter Luke 8:40-56

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer." When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved." When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

The gospel of our Lord**.**

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon (preaching notes)

* Big Question: What should you do if you experience an illness or disability?
* When we experience an illness or disability God wants us to reach out to God and to our neighbors so that we can support each other. God wants us to reach out and to seek help. When we come together we find hope in God and each other.
* Share a personal story about relying on others in a time of illness.
* In our gospel lesson there is a woman who has been ill for 12 years. When she hears about Jesus, she seeks him out because she believes that he can help her. She seeks out help.
* When Elijah and the woman who was a widow worked together they were able to feed her whole household.

Hymn of the Day Bind Us Together CH 425

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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 the triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you gather your people from east and west, north and south. We pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, that your steadfast love may be made known to all peoples. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You laid the foundations of the earth and the waters are the womb of creation. The morning stars sing your name and all creation shouts for joy. We pray for your blessed creation, that it may continue to flourish and magnify your glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You keep watch over all nations. We pray for countries experiencing violence, hunger, and unrest. Guide worldwide and local community organizations in their efforts to establish safety and justice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are close to the brokenhearted and near to those in distress. We pray for those who are experiencing oppression. Liberate us from the systems and chains that bind us. Remove the barriers that separate us from one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You dwell with us in this faith community. We pray for our leaders and elders. Grant them knowledge, patience, and kindness, that through their leadership you may be exalted in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your love endures in all situations. On this Father’s Day, we pray for those who are fathers or wish to be fathers, for those with broken or strained relationships, for those who are missing their fathers, and for fathers who have lost children. Bless and strengthen them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With all the saints, especially Saint Fabiola, 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 hope. 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 Light Dawns on a Weary World ELW 726

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Sending

Go in peace, building the kingdom of God.

**Thanks be to God.**