

VBS CELEBRATION SUNDAY

PrairieLand Parish

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.*

*May we together experience the presence of God*

+++++

**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**



**Prelude – Welcome – Announcements**

**Opening Meditation**

Today we gather in His name as we celebrate our amazing children. For the last couple of days our kids have gathered with the knowledge that not only does God provide for our physical needs but His also gives us provisions to nourish our spiritual self. We receive His nourishment through the power of prayer.

Jesus teaches us that the first thing we should do when we pray is to praise God. In Acts 4, when the disciples had been threatened by the Jews. They gathered together and began to pray, and despite the problems they faced, they did not begin by voicing their problems; they began their prayer with praise. Verse 24 says “When they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, O LORD, it is You who made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and all that in them is ...”. They began with praise. They had some big problems — but they had a bigger God — and starting their prayer with praise reminded them of that.

Praising God “sets the tone” for the rest of our prayer time by reminding us who God is, and what He can do. And on top of that, He is just worthy of our praise! It is what we were designed to do. We must remember it is “Thy” first then “our”. Now that mind set goes against our tendency to put ourselves first — and I think He’s doing that on purpose. He’s trying to get us to focus on things greater than ourselves, and especially His kingdom.

The “Our” part of prayer is an example we see in Matthew 6:11 of the Lord’s prayer that says: “Give us this day our daily bread.” This represents our provision.

But is there more to this request than meets the eye? Is it simply a request for rye, a petition for pumpernickel, a wish for wheat? If we look down toward the end of this same chapter, Jesus talks again about God’s provision. Look at 6:31:

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ [32] For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. [33] But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Friends in Christ - What we all need to remember is that when we pray we are not simply praying for what God will give, but we are also acknowledging what he has given, AND the simple fact that He is the Giver.

So, let us come together in strength of discipleship to worship our Lord this day.

### **A Call to Worship (Psalm 100)**

---

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his.

**we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

**give thanks to him and praise his name.**

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

**his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

---

Loving God, we thank you:

**For believing in us when we forget to believe in ourselves,**

**For giving us strength when we feel our weakest,**

**For giving us courage when we feel afraid,**

**For giving us a lifetime of chances to show our love for you and your people. Amen**

**Praise Hymn    Song by the Children of VBS**

## ***We Hear God's Word***

**Gospel Reading..... John 21:1-17**

---

**New International Version**

### **Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish**

21 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.[a] It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus[b]), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.[c] 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### **Jesus Reinstates Peter**

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

The word of God for the People of God, **Thanks Be to God**

### **Faith Hymn UMH #374**

### **"Standing on the Promises"**

*Author: R. Kelso Carter*

*Composer: R. Kelso Carter*

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King, through eternal ages let his praises ring; glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

**Refrain:** Standing, standing,

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt

and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,

standing on the promises of God.

**[Refrain]**

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God.

**[Refrain]**

## **\*VBS Presentation\***

### **A prayer for Gratitude**

Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us.

Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes.

Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us.

Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given.

Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy.

We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!

We come to you this day as we share in the prayer your loving Son taught us - Our Father...

### **\*\*Baptismal Covenant II UMH #39\*\***

### **Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

God bless these gifts we give this day. May we use them to share your love throughout our church, our community, and our world. Amen

### **Departing Hymn UMH #575**

### **"Onward, Christian Soldiers" (verses 1 & 5)**

*Author: Sabine Baring-Gould (1864)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Name: ST. GERTRUDE*

*Composer: Arthur S. Sullivan (1871)*

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
forward into battle see his banners go!

**Refrain:**

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

5. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,  
this through countless ages men and angels sing.

**(Refrain)****COMMISSION & BENEDICTION**

Go this day and may Christ Jesus give you words of Spirit and life;  
and may the Holy Spirit draw you near to God's presence  
.....and bless you with honor and grace.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.