

Living Water Fellowship

4th Sunday in Lent – 30th March 2025

COME TO JESUS

GATHERING MUSIC: VIDEO – GOODNESS OF GOD (*Maranatha! Music*)

WELCOME & PRAYER:

OPENING SONG: Free to Dance (AT 481)

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹ As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. ⁵³ But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When James & John saw this, they said to Jesus, “Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?” ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned & rebuked them. ⁵⁶ So they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, & birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.” ⁵⁹ He said to another person, “Come, follow me.” The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home & bury my father.” ⁶⁰ But Jesus told him, “Let the dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.” ⁶¹ Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.” ⁶² But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow & then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

CHILDREN’S TIME:

SONG: May we be One (LHS 800)

BIBLE READING: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne & from the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne & around the elders & the four living beings. They fell before the throne with their faces to the ground & worshiped God. ¹² They sang, “Amen! Blessing & glory & wisdom & thanksgiving & honour & power & strength belong to our God forever & ever! Amen.” ¹³ Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?” ¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.”

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Luke 9:51-62 & Revelation 7:9-17. What strikes you in these verses?
2. What turning point does Luke describe in vs 51? What does this mean? What does this verse tell us about Jesus?
3. What is significant in your opinion about the interaction with the Samaritans? How is this a very different encounter than the one we see in John 4:1-42? How is Jesus’ approach exactly the same even though the outcomes are different for this village?
4. How do the encounters Jesus has with prospective disciples in verses 57-62 compare or contrast with the previous experience in Samaria? How do both 51-56 & 57-62 help us see the same issue but from different perspectives?
5. There is a difference between total surrender & total obedience. How would you describe it? To which does Jesus invite us?
6. Jesus says that anybody who “looks back” isn’t fit for the kingdom of God. The word fit means useful. Why would looking back to your old way of life (and all that entails) cause someone to be ineffective in serving Jesus & his kingdom? What does it mean here to be “whole-hearted”?
7. In Revelation 7, how does the image of people from every nation & language worshipping God impact your understanding of His love for all people? What would it be like to have a church like that today?
8. What is the significance of God’s promise to wipe away every tear from our eyes? How does this bring comfort & assurance?
9. What element or elements of this snapshot of heavenly worship makes the deepest impression on you or affects you most powerfully? Why do you think that is?
10. Revelation 6 gives us a glimpse of the final judgment & world’s end. Revelation 7 paints a very different picture. Discuss the contrast & how you believe John wants us to engage with his witness here.
11. What does Jesus, in His Word, today call you to do in the week ahead?

Remember:

Christ calls us to join him in Christ-shaped living
that leads to Christlike submission to the Father’s will in all things.

Continue praying through the week:

***Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.
In Jesus’ Name...Amen.***

Then he said to me, "These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb & made them white. ¹⁵ That is why they stand in front of God's throne & serve him day & night in his Temple. And he who sits on the throne will give them shelter. ¹⁶ They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun. ¹⁷ For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

FAITH CHAT:

1. What's harder for you to "give up" comfort or convenience? Why?
2. What would be the hardest "call" you could receive from God?
How do you think you'd respond?

THE MESSAGE: *WHOLE-HEARTED SUBMISSION*

OFFERING SONG: Grace

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation: Let us pray together...

I will get up and go back to my Father and say:

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight.

I am no longer fit to be called your child."

*Loving God, There is enough evil within us to dampen our confidence;
Sometimes there is enough doubt within us to drown our faith.*

Some days there is enough apathy in us to choke our hopefulness.

There is enough weariness in us to smother our compassion.

*Yet, thankfully there is also enough hunger in us to keep us unhappy.
And enough discontent in us to make us return home to your love*

God of monumental patience & prodigal mercy, forgive our sin, have pity on our pride & folly, lead us to the fountain of your grace, & wash us thoroughly from all that defiles us. Through Christ our Redeemer. Amen!

Jesus said: "Then the Father said: Bring quickly the best clothes for him, & put a ring on his finger & shoes on his feet. Kill the fattened calf, & let us eat & celebrate, for this my child was dead & is alive again, was lost & is found."

My friends welcome home! Jesus, and his remarkable household, welcomes sinners and even eats with the likes of us!

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion:

VIDEO – CRY FOR HUMILITY

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

***(Name), † child of God,
"As for you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God."
Amen***

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: In Christ Alone

SHOW HIS LOVE

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