

When Jesus Pursues the Fallen

Welcome to worship. We are delighted that you are here.

What are you to do when you haven fallen in your spiritual journey and feel unfit to serve the Lord... when you have experienced a disastrous breakdown in your allegiance to Jesus? You've prostituted your purity. You've reneged on your promises. You've been dishonest and deceitful. You have cheated on your exam, your taxes, or your spouse.

Our sermon text highlights what our Lord does to restore his fallen disciple - Simon Peter. John Calvin teaches us that one of the take home lessons from this incident in the life of our Lord is: "No one will steadily persevere in serving Christ unless the love of Christ reigns in his heart."

PRAYER OF PREPARATION * 11:00 AM Service * Gathered Worship

O Lord, you have taught us that without love
whatever we do is worth nothing;
Send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift,
which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue,
without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you.
Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDEHow Deep the Father's Love for Us

CALL TO WORSHIPJeremiah 31:3; 1 John 3:1

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with lovingkindness.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

PRAYER OF ADORATION.

SONG FOR GATHERING O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus!, no. 442

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o'er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee.

HYMN OF PRAISELove Divine, All Loves Excelling, no. 435

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION.

Lord, you said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Forgive us our lukewarm love and delayed obedience.

Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

Forgive us for thinking that we can solve our own problems.

Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." We confess that our lives are often consumed

by faithless fears and worldly anxiety.

Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

We confess, Lord, that too often we remain silent

— loving the approval of others more than yours.

Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

We confess that too often we relate to others out of pride and envy and fail to love You and others well.

Have mercy upon us and transform us for Jesus' sake, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS.Revelation 1:6-7

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE.My Jesus, I Love Thee, no. 538

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death;
and praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath;
and say, when the death-dew lies cold on my brow:
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow:
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

ANTHEM.....Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.

I, who make the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain;
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone;
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life for them,
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, go if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I will go, Lord. Here I am.

GREETINGS/MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE. **Philippians 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING **John 21:1-23**

THE SERMON **When Jesus Pursues the Fallen**
#2 in our series "When Jesus Pursues"

1. He comes to us (1-8).
2. He feeds us (9-14).
3. He restores us (vv.15-17).
4. He recommissions us (18-23).

HYMN OF COMMITMENT. How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son,
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there,
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward,
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

BENEDICTION. Numbers 6:24-26

May our Lord be pleased to grant to you
a mind to know Him; eyes to behold Him, ears to listen to Him;
a heart to love Him; and a life to proclaim Him;
through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.
May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace. AMEN.