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**Prelude:** “Song for Sienna,” & “Everything has it’s Season.” Bill & Gloria Gaither’s Women of Homecoming CD # 14 (*written by Solveig Leithaug, based on Ecclesiastes 3.*)

*Spring comes after winter after all; The farmer gets his harvest in the fall  
He who sets the time and sets the beat; Gives us time to sow and time to reap  
He endures who wants to win the prize; Children fall asleep to lullabies  
He who sets the time and sets the beat; Gives us time to fight and time to sleep  
A season for dancing; A season for crying, A season for living; And there's also a season for dying  
Everything has it's time; Has it's time  
Many girls prepare to be a bride; Hope and wait for someone at her side  
Soon the timeless wedding feast; When the groom will be the King of Kings  
But yet there is a season for dancing, A season for crying; A season for living  
And there's also a season for dying; Everything has it's time; Has it's time*

### Welcome & Announcements

- **Thank you** to all who are helping with this service.
- Today we distribute Bibles to our **third graders**.
- Reminder that **First Communion Camp** will be after church October 4 from 10:30-12:30-3 lessons. Please call the church so that we have a count & can plan appropriately.
- **Tenth grade confirmation** to be completed in October Wednesdays from 6-7 PM, followed by Youth group activities for grades 7-12.
- **Men’s discussion group** begins after church October 4, for 4 weeks. Please sign up so that we can arrange a safe location, so far we have 7 men attending. Thank you.
- **Bible Study Thursdays changed** to 2:00, instead of 10:00 at Rustads’ on “The Cost of Discipleship”.
- In honor of our **ministry to our children**, we are following the example of Martin Luther by singing Bible School songs to familiar Mother Goose Songs. We hope you listen to the words and enjoy them as well.
- Don’t forget to **pick up Sunday School packets** for your school age kids in lieu of Sunday and Friday School instruction.
- **Thank you** to Dean Lindberg for inscribing the Bibles presented today.

### Invocation

Psalm 100:2. L: “Serve the Lord with gladness. Enter into His presence with singing.”

**Call to worship** Hymn: “**The Son of God**” (tune “The Muffin Man”) Mother Goose Gospel Song # 5.

### Prayer of Confession

P: Let us Pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (brief silence)

L: Most merciful God **C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

**Absolution:** Words of Comfort & Forgiveness

Hymn of **Thanksgiving and Praise:** “**Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone.)** by Women of Homecoming (Bill & Gloria Gaither) Vol. 2, #18.

**Verse of the day:** Psalm 145:8. “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

*The prayer of the Day (Psalm 23, a Psalm of David; please read responsively)*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. **He leads me beside still waters.**

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness **for his name’s sake.**

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil,**

for you are with me; **your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me, **in the presence of my enemies;**

you anoint my head with oil; **my cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, **all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**Invitation to participate** in the prayers of the church: L: "Forgiven through grace and filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus by praying for the church, our nation, and the world, those in need, and all of God's creation. Let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens." (brief silence)

*Gracious Lord*, speak kindly to your whole church. Give us tongues that speak your words of welcome, comfort and acceptance. Shower us with your gifts that we may share with others. Give us hands that help people and tend your creation.

Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

*God of Peace*, silence our quarrels, hold us accountable to one another as brothers and sisters united by faith. Make us eager to find reconciliation, quick to forgive and so wash each other's feet as you washed the feet of your disciples.

Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

*Great Provider*, satisfy us with *good* things, manna for our bodies, minds and souls, give respite to those who care for all those in need so that they are not discouraged, and give hope to those who are in anguish on the West Coast who suffer loss of all they have due to fires, for the fire fighters across our nation who rise to give aid, risking life and health, for those who have lost loved ones, or health due to this tragedy. Into your loving hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, encourage us Lord, show us the good that comes out of challenges. Today we pray especially for (list).

Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

*Mighty Counselor*, make your ways known to all of us who call on your Name. Help us to be steadfast and upright as we work for justice and equity in our education systems, our neighborhoods, our community, our nation, and our world. Hold our church families close to your heart, especially the families of Jon & Sheyanne Dufault as they await the birth of their second child, Roy & Joan Dufault, Judy Dunrud & Joel, Verna Ekeberg, and Steve & Jane Ekholm.

Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

*Almighty God*, You are Lord of the living and the dead. Hold us together with all the saints in your redeeming and steadfast love today and always. During these troubled times, increase our confidence that all things are in Your hands, as we trust in Your promises, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Hymn to **Prepare to hear the Word**: (Please feel free to clap with this song the B-I-B-L-E, tune is B-I-N-G-O) "**God Gave Us a Special Book**" Mother Goose Gospel Song # 8

*First Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15*

The whole congregation of the Israelites **complained against Moses and Aaron** in the wilderness.<sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots (*modern equivalent of 'pot roast'*) and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "**I am going to rain bread from heaven for you**, and each day the people shall go out and gather **enough for that day**. In that way *I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.*"<sup>5</sup> **On the sixth day**, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

<sup>6</sup> So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening **you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out** of the land of Egypt,<sup>7</sup> and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?"<sup>8</sup> And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because **the Lord has heard** the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? **Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.**"

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, '**Draw near to the Lord**, for he has heard your complaining.'"

<sup>10</sup> And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses and said,<sup>12</sup> "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then **you shall know that I am the Lord your God.**'"

<sup>13</sup> In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.<sup>14</sup> When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground.<sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "**What is it?**" **For they did not know** what it was.

Moses said to them, "**It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.**"

*Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30*

**For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.**<sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.<sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;<sup>24</sup> **but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.**<sup>25</sup> **Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,**<sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,<sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.<sup>29</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup> since **you are having the same struggle** that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Thy Word** is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119: 105) Songs 4 Worship Song #2. Blue Hymnal P. 184.

**Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

"For the kingdom of heaven is **like a landowner** who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.<sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;<sup>4</sup> and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

<sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.<sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?"

<sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

<sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, **beginning with the last and then going to the first.**"

<sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.<sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they **thought they would receive more**; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.<sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,<sup>12</sup> saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

<sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?<sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; **I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.**<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because **I am generous?**"

<sup>16</sup> **So the last will be first, and the first will be last.**"

**Thy Word** is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119: 105) Songs 4 Worship Song #2. Blue Hymnal P. 184.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON - Presentation of Bibles to third graders.**

### **SERMON**

**Hymn of Faith: "He's My Savior"** (tune is 'Are You Sleeping') Mother Goose Gospel Song #7.

**The NICENE CREED** (page 64 in the front of the green hymnal)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the World to come.**

**Amen.**

P: THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU. C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

**Benediction**

P: Jesus, we trust that in You, "There is a Time for all things under heaven" C: **Teach us your Ways Dear Lord, because You change & improve everything!**

**Closing Hymn:** "Oh! Hosanna! "Mother Goose Gospel Song # 10.

P: Go in Peace, serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

**Postlude: "Read, Read, Read the Word" & "This Old Saint"** Mother Goose Gospel Song & # 11& 12; followed by "Awesome God" Songs 4 Worship Song #3 Blue Hymnal p. 179.