



*Thanks to Jennifer Sereda for providing today's beautiful flowers that you see in the sermon video.*

Today's sermon is the first of the *Sermon on the Mount* series, which will continue up to the first day of advent on November 29. A Sermon Series outline is provided at the end of the sermon notes, and also under the *Reflections* tab on the Maplewood website: [www.maplewoodpres.org](http://www.maplewoodpres.org).

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**—inspired by Matthew 6:5-14

Lord, teach us to pray.  
So we might awaken to the wonder of your presence;  
so we might feel gratitude for your gift of life today  
so we might discover your kingdom  
as revealed in our sisters and brothers;  
so we might find safety  
beneath the shelter of your wings;  
so we might declare your glory as we worship:  
**Lord, teach us to pray.**

So we might forgive those who have wronged us;  
so we might lead free from pretense and hypocrisy;  
so we might trust your perfect plans  
and not replace them with our own;  
so we might love you with our whole hearts,  
and love our neighbors as ourselves;  
so we might declare your glory as we worship:  
**Lord, teach us to pray.**

So diverse hearts might harmonize  
as many voices become one;  
so our bodies might praise you  
in bowed heads and raised hands;  
so a spirit of criticism  
is replaced with an offering of sacrifice;  
so we consider others more than ourselves;  
so we might declare your glory as we gather together:  
**Lord, teach us to pray.**

So the truth of your Word resonates  
in what we say and sing;  
so we might prepare a way  
through the wilderness of chaos and pain;  
so our eyes are alert and our souls awake  
to your movement in our midst;  
so our good work is fruitful  
in the reign of your kingdom;  
so we might declare your glory as we gather together:  
**Lord, teach us to pray.**

#### **HYMN** *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my ebenezzer,  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.



**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**—based on Psalm 62:5-12

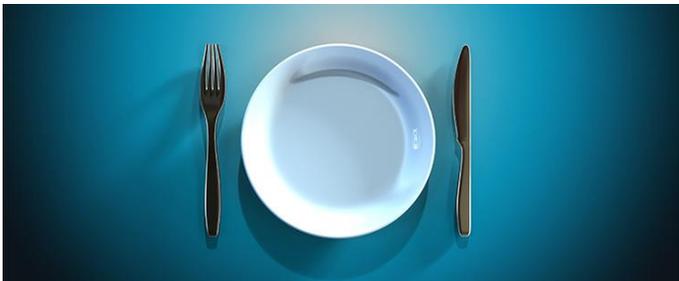
God our heavenly Father, we are sorry that we have become so engrossed with ourselves and our worldly matters. We do not give time to consider why you made us who we are and placed us where we are. Sometimes we feel that our affairs are too trivial to bring before you. We believe we can manage life by ourselves. Yet we realize that we are part of your kingdom; that you created us and have a purpose for us. Forgive our self-centeredness, and give us a wider vision, so that in you we may find our true selves and the reason for our being. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**—from Psalm 91:14-15

The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me.  
I will protect those who trust in my name.  
When they call on me, I will answer;  
I will be with them in trouble.  
I will rescue them and honor them."

Brothers and sisters, be at peace.  
The Lord has heard your prayer,  
and has forgiven your sins.  
**Thanks be to God!**



**PRAYERS OF PEACE**

Pray the peace of Christ for family and loved ones,  
neighbors and acquaintances,  
friends and enemies,  
people and places around the world.

**RESPONSE** *O Savior, in This Quiet Place*

O Savior, in this quiet place,  
where anyone may kneel,  
I also come to ask for grace,  
believing you can heal.

If pain of body, stress of mind,  
destroys my inward peace,  
in prayer for others may I find  
the secret of release.

If self upon its sickness feeds  
and turns my life to gall,  
let me not brood upon my needs,  
but simply tell you all.

You never said "You ask too much"  
to any troubled soul.  
I long to feel your healing touch;  
will you not make me whole?

But if the thing I most desire  
is not your way for me,  
may faith, when tested in the fire,  
prove its integrity.

Of all my prayers, may this be chief:  
till faith is fully grown,  
Lord, disbelieve my unbelief,  
and claim me as your own.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Psalm 62 and  
Matthew 6:1-18

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE** *Sermon on the Mount:  
Living for an Audience of One*

**HYMN** *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
That calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Father's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
The joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
where God my Savior shows his face,  
and gladly take my station there,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
Thy wings shall my petition bear  
to him whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face,  
believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care,  
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for all in need this day, and for our world,  
especially at this time of coronavirus pandemic...



### OFFERING

### DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;  
Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

**God of grace, it is our delight and our devotion to give these gifts to you. All we are and all we have are yours alone. Accept this joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: use it to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world, Amen.**

### HYMN *Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah*

*The "fire and cloudy pillar" in verse 2 is a direct reference to Exodus 13:21-22. The hymn is based on Israel's 40-year wilderness journey, and God's faithfulness to them, and how we experience that same faithfulness in our journey through life.*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou are mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream dost flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

### BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,  
The love of God surround you,  
And the Holy Spirit keep you,  
That you may live in faith,  
Abound in hope,  
And grow in love,  
Now and forevermore.  
And all of God's people said, Amen!

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
- John 20:21*

## Watch Me!



*Unless you change and become like a little child,  
you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.  
-Matthew 18:3*