

The Heart Of God

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2025 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

The easiest way to see the heart of God is to look at what God has done. We see that most clearly in the saving work of His son Christ Jesus. But sometimes we get a glimpse of the heart of our compassionate creator through the relationships of others. We see this in the story of Ruth, a young lady who married into an Israelite family, but found herself to be a widow at a very young age. What is remarkable about Ruth, is her dedication and loyalty to take care of her mother-in-law, Naomi, who had also been widowed.

Why is this important to see? Well, for God, relationships are important. Through this relationship with Naomi, Ruth eventually experiences the promises of God fulfilled for her and through her in a most wonderful way!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

"House of the Lord"

"Reckless Love"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 1:3-19a

³Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of His people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. ⁹May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them and they wept aloud ¹⁰and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹²Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!"

¹⁴At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

¹⁶But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." ¹⁸When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 17: 9-19

⁹[Jesus said,] "I pray for them (His disciples). I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name – the name You gave Me – so that they may be one as We are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name You gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"Our Heart"

Pastor Doug Slavens

(Today's readings)

WE CONFESS OUR SINFULNESS BEFORE GOD

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: Let us confess our sins to our Lord. . . .

C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I come before You acknowledging that I cannot keep Your commands perfectly. I've sinned against You and against my brothers and sisters by my lack of faithfulness to You. My thoughts and desires are often filled with sinful intentions. Dear Father, I believe that You sent Your Son Jesus to take my sins upon Himself, even though I've done nothing to deserve that kind of love from You. Forgive my sins, for Jesus 'sake, and, by Your Holy Spirit, restore me to healthy living as Your child. Amen.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

GOD FORGIVES OUR SINS

CONFESSION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF BLESSING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

WE SING DURING DISTRIBUTION

"King of Kings"

"10,000 Reasons"

COMMUNION BLESSING

WE PRAY TO OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

THE CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING

"Child of Love"

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.