

Hero PART 11 (Aug 16)
"The Punisher" (what is God like?)

Pastor Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Peace

Invocation Prayer

Call to Worship

Pastor: Come and learn the true character of the Almighty. Let us love one another, because love originates from the heart of God.

People: God is not defined by human vengeance, nor does He store up explosive wrath to mock our fragile lives!

Pastor: He shows His ultimate character by sending His only Son, Jesus, into our darkness, not to condemn the world, but to rescue it.

People: While we were still trapped in open rebellion, Christ died for us, becoming the perfect sacrifice that wipes out our guilt!

Pastor: He trades punishment for pardon, vengeance for mercy, and execution for eternal adoption into His family.

People: We praise the patient, merciful Father who breaks the cycle of retribution and chooses the way of sacrificial love!

Pastor: Jesus is more than a hero, but our Savior!

People: Showing us the way to live a life of truth, grace, and the Christ-centered way!

Hymn

"Thieves on a Cross" – Kip Fox (video)

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: God of infinite mercy, we live in a world consumed by vengeance, payback, and rage.

People: Deliver us from painting You in our own angry image.

Pastor: Reveal Yourself to us today as the God who is love—

People: the One who breaks the cycle of punishment by taking our place upon the cross.

Pastor: Transform us by this scandalous grace; through Christ our Lord.

People: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (Jn 8:36) Amen.

Readings

Old Testament: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

¹When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ²The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. ³Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. ⁴I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. ⁸How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-10

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-56

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village.

Creed: Apostle's

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. On 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.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"Forgiven" – Crowder (video)

Message

Offering

"Forever" – Kari Jobe (video)

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

Confession/Absolution

Words of Institution & Communion

"Just as I Am" – The Worship Initiative (video)

"The Lamb" – LSB547

The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.

The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

“Were You There” – LSB456

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God raised Him from the tomb?

Prayer of Thanks

Next Steps & Sending

Closing Hymn/Song

“God So Loved” – The Worship Initiative (video)

Sending

P: Go in peace to love & serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.