

### The Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

### The Christian Pledge

I pledge allegiance to the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the faith for which it stands, one Savior, eternal, with mercy and grace for all.

### INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

**People: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. (Psalm 33)**

Pastor: As we are gathered together today, we recognize that while we are politically free in this land, sin still seeks to enslave us, and take us captive. God's Word tells us that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God.

**People: O Lord, we are far from perfect. When we look at your holy and sinless life, our good works mean nothing. We are stained and sinful. We need your grace and forgiveness, or we could never stand in your presence or know your blessing and favor. Forgive us. Renew us. We thank you that you were not offended by our condition, but that you came to each one of us and called us by name, taking our sin upon yourself. For this we long to thank and praise you with our words and our lives. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

Leader: Let us pray together:

**All: Almighty Lord, you spared nothing in sending your only Son into our midst to be our Savior and call us to right relationship with you through Him. We worship you this day in honor of your grace to us all. May the righteousness of Christ adorn every believing heart that we may stand in your presence with confidence and know again your mercy and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Scripture Readings

July 4, 2010

#### Exodus 12:1-13

#### *Saved by the Blood of the Lamb*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!**

#### Romans 5:12-18

#### *Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ*

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed

one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

**John 1:29-37**

*Jesus the Lamb of God*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

## **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

### **Sermon Outline • July 4, 2010 The Apostle's Creed • "The Holiness of Jesus"**

**Introduction: Living with a perfectionist...**

**1. The Standard:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:48*

- So how're you doing with that?

**2. The Result:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*""There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12*

- A "D+" won't cut it.

**3. Our Only Hope:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect." Exodus 12:5*

*"Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:10*

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29*

*"... one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin." Hebrews 4:15*

- Adam -- one more time!

**4. His Gift:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous." Romans 5:18-19*

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**"For freedom Christ has set you free!"**

**Answers to Sermon Outline:** Perfection, Failure,  
The Lamb of God, The Righteousness of God

**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.

**THE BENEDICTION**

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!