

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Gracious Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts. You know our sinful condition and you still invite us to come to you for forgiveness and grace. This day we recognize that there are times when we are ungrateful for your many gifts to us. Instead of rejoicing in what we have, we grumble about what we don't have. Forgive us and restore within us that attitude of gratitude for how you so faithfully pour out your gifts upon us -- undeserved and unearned. We praise you O God and give thanks for your gift of forgiveness and love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Scripture Readings November 15, 2009

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Luke 15:1-7

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable:

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

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 • November 15, 2009
"Grow, With Grace" • Party!
Isaiah 9:2-7

Introduction: "Grumpy old men..."

Harvest time is Party time!

"...they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest..." Isaiah 9:3

1. We party because _____.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2

2. We party because _____.

"You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy..."

Isaiah 9:3a

3. We party because _____.

"...they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest..." Isaiah 9:3b

4. We party because _____.

"For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor." Isaiah 9:4

5. We party because _____!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..." Isaiah 9:6

Answers to Sermon Outline: there's Light at the end of the tunnel. God has blessed us with growth. God is again proving His faithfulness. Our enemies are defeated. A baby's on the way!

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!**