



## True North VBS Service

June 29, 2025

Group VBS Publishing



### Introduction to the Day

We just completed five enjoyable evenings of our annual Vacation Bible School! We welcomed a great group of kiddos from Preschool through 6th Grade, and spent the week teaching them about trusting God through music, dance, games, crafts and Bible stories. Today's worship service is a glimpse of the program we used. We hope that you will join in on the songs that are familiar and enjoy worshipping in a VBS kind of way!

**Announcements:** This week's activities can be found on the page 9.

*Congregation participation in **bold print**.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING** - The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

Mighty God, this week you showed us how loving and trustworthy you are, and you helped us to bring the good news of your love to dozens of children in our community. We learned that when we wonder, when we feel alone, when we feel powerless, when we need hope, and when we need help, that God is a friend we can trust.

**We pray that you will continue to show us that trusting you can make a change in the world. We will continue to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**DAY 1: WHEN WE WONDER, WE CAN TRUST JESUS**

***Bible Story: John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus. (Matthew 3:11, 1-6)***

***Bible Verse: “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise.”  
(Matthew 7:24)***

Jesus’ cousin John came with unconventional clothes, a pauper’s diet, and a bold message: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Meaning? Jesus—the Messiah and fulfillment of God’s kingdom on earth—is *here*! John proclaimed Jesus’ power and authority. He resisted the very idea of baptizing Jesus, the one who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit! While John adamantly proclaimed Christ, even *he* had questions about Jesus. From prison, John sent a message to Jesus, asking, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?” John’s circumstances may have caused him to wonder if (and when) Jesus might take political action. Scholars ponder if John may have assumed the Messiah would be the one to rescue God’s people from Roman rule—as many Jews of the time anticipated. However, Jesus

had a greater mission than anyone could comprehend. He came to save *the world* from sin. Such love and compassion go beyond anything we can understand or imagine!

Kids' curiosity can be intimidating—and a bit wearying. They have so many questions, many of which we simply can't answer. And when it comes to questions about Jesus, God, or the Bible, adults can *really* feel overwhelmed and underprepared. But we don't have to have all the answers! Sometimes our wonderings can lead to true *wonder*, as we discover the mystery and marvel of God. On this day, we celebrated curiosity and questions. We pointed kids to Jesus, a trustworthy and true friend who will guide us as we seek to know and understand him better.

## SONG SELECTION

*"Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus"*

*True North VBS*

## DAY 2: WHEN WE FEEL ALONE, WE CAN TRUST JESUS

***Bible Story: Jesus teaches about God's love for us. (Matthew 6:25-33, 18:1***

***Bible Verse: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)***

Jesus' ministry had just begun when he stopped on a mountainside near Capernaum and began to speak...and speak...and speak! What we call the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' call to live a life pleasing to God. He covered practical topics such as prayer, divorce, enemies, and giving. No wonder a crowd of more than 5,000 soon gathered! Jesus challenged the multitude, but he also comforted them. He reassured people of God's gentle care for each person. This mattered because in Jesus' time, most people led a hand-to-mouth existence. The average citizen awakened each day unsure of how to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. Imagine the peace found in Jesus' words: "So don't worry about these things...your heavenly Father already knows all your needs" (Matthew 6:31-32). Ahhhh! Jesus encouraged listeners to rest in God's loving care, trusting in his unfailing presence. With God by our side, we never face challenges alone.

Most likely, some kids came to our VBS with physical needs. Maybe food isn't readily available at home or new shoes haven't been in the family budget for a while. Others might have emotional needs—they're in a friendship famine, or anxiety has starved them of peace. Both types of needs can isolate kids, causing them to feel alone in their struggles. And kids who try to handle stress by themselves end up feeling exhausted and anxious. Jesus' words provide a feast of encouragement! He offers his broad shoulders and strong arms to carry whatever heavy burdens kids feel they carry alone. We used today's lesson to bring comfort to hurting kids, reminding them that they can rest in Jesus' loving care. Kids can trust Jesus, who truly values and sees them.

**DAY 3: WHEN WE FEEL POWERLESS, WE CAN TRUST JESUS*****Bible Story: A Roman officer trusts Jesus. (Matthew 8:5-13)******Bible Verse: “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage, I am here!” (Matthew 14:27)***

Capernaum, situated on the Sea of Galilee, boasted a Roman customs station and proximity to busy trade routes. Considering Rome’s occupation of the city, Roman soldiers likely patrolled the streets. Their presence offended plenty of devout Jews, who recoiled at the idea of worshipping many gods, among other Roman practices. So onlookers got a big surprise when a Roman centurion—a powerful leader of up to about 100 men—approached Jesus with humility and respect. This leader, who clearly understood what it meant to have authority, identified Jesus as someone with power. The centurion wholeheartedly believed that Jesus could heal his servant with just a word. What confidence from one who likely *didn’t* follow God! Jesus praised the centurion’s faith to the gathering crowd. And, just as the centurion trusted, Jesus’ power provided miraculous, authoritative healing for the servant.

If anyone understands what it’s like to be powerless, it’s a kid. Hungry? You need a grown-up to buy food. Don’t like broccoli? Too bad—that’s what’s on your plate! Want to visit a friend who lives far away? You’ll need to find someone who can drive you there. Oftentimes kids don’t have the power to make daily choices. But on a bigger scale, kids hear overwhelming and frightening news about the world and feel incapable of making a difference. Broken families can bring about anxiety and a sense of helplessness. Yet Jesus promises his powerful presence when life feels out of control. Today, we pointed kids to the mighty power of Jesus—a faithful friend with the authority to conquer every fear.

**DAY 4: WHEN WE NEED HOPE, WE CAN TRUST JESUS*****Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life. (Matthew 26:47-28:8)******Bible Verse: “And his name will be the hope of all the world.” (Matthew 12:21)***

Everything about Jesus offended the religious leaders of the time. He forgave sins. He spent time with tax collectors and people of poor reputation. He seemed to disregard religious tradition. And he claimed to be the Messiah—the awaited Savior and King of God’s people. Their outrage culminated in Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus’ followers must have felt like hope was crucified that day, too. They’d seen Jesus heal lepers and make blind people see. They’d trusted his promises. They’d hoped that he was God’s Son. And now their friend and teacher lay lifeless behind a wall of rock.

How could this be? Had they been wrong? What was next? The mystery continued when, three days later, they found an empty tomb and angelic messenger who told them, “He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.” Jesus lives! Hope is resurrected, giving *all* who believe the promise of eternal life!

Maybe we like working with kids because they bring *us* hope. Spending time with kids reminds us of days when everything seemed possible. “I’m gonna play pro football,” “I can’t wait to be an actor!” or “Someday *I’ll* fly a plane!” The future is full of promise. Yet *every* child experiences a moment when dreams fail, reality crashes in, hope dies. Parents lose jobs, grandparents get sick, families move, friends leave. And frightening news stories may lead to despair about what our future holds. On this day, we took an opportunity to boldly declare the hope we *all* can have...in Jesus! God’s Son offers a truly hopeful future—one that lasts into eternity and is full of joy and promise. We pointed kids to the truth and hope Jesus brings through his loving sacrifice.

## SONG SELECTION

*“This Is The Day”*

*True North VBS*

## DAY 5: WHEN WE NEED HELP, WE CAN TRUST JESUS

***Bible Story: Jesus gives the Great Commission, and the Holy Spirit comes.  
(Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-12)***

***Bible Verse: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)***

For about three years, the disciples talked with Jesus, watched him perform miracles, absorbed his interactions with religious leaders, and listened to his teaching. Returning to heaven, Jesus handed the baton to his followers, giving *them* the monumental task of growing God’s kingdom throughout the *world*! Help! But Jesus didn’t leave them alone. He promised to be with them and gave them the divine helper, the Holy Spirit. Soon after Jesus returned to heaven, the followers saw the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, giving them the ability to speak in many languages. Plus, the Holy Spirit empowered Peter to share the news of Jesus in such a way that 3,000 people believed! With God’s help, impossible things happened—in big ways!

How do the kids at our VBS need help? Maybe reading is hard for them, and they needed a little assistance. Or they’re shy and needed some guidance finding friends. There may have been kids who needed physical or emotional support. Kids may have needed help forgiving someone or getting along with family members. Wherever we come up short, the Holy Spirit can step in! Yet kids may wonder how to access the power of the Holy Spirit. *How* does Jesus help us? We showed kids what it means to live a life of faith, relying on Jesus to help us through every challenge. We pointed kids to practical ways to pray, read Scripture, talk with other friends of God, and receive the help Jesus freely gives!

*Please stand as you are able.*

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, the Worship Assistant will say, "God of grace," The congregation will respond, "hear our prayer."*

Drawn into the embrace of the Holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The love and trust that God provides be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL** - God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING SONG**

*“Come To Me”*

*True North VBS*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, especially those that are lonely and need your love and friendship. Prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Amen!**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated.*

*We believe that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine. All those who are baptized and have received formal teaching about The Lord's Supper are invited forward to commune. If you desire a blessing, come forward and keep hands folded together. Come forward at the direction of the usher. Pick up a clean cup from the right side of the altar. The empty cups can be placed in the tray on the left side of the altar. Please indicate if you prefer grape juice or a gluten-free alternative.*



## SONGS DURING COMMUNION

True North VBS

*"My Hope Is In The Lord"*

*Various Instrumental Selections*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**SENDING** - God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

May the love and friendship of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit gladden your heart and bring peace to your soul, now and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*"True North Slideshow"*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your trust in God with others!

**Thanks be to God!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

- Today: Christian Outreach Mtg, 11:00
- Wednesday: TBD Magical Mystery Tour, Noon
- Thursday: Pippins Baseball, 7:05 pm.

Altar Guild : Angie Karn & Terry Campbell

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week: Jeannie Hannon, Hayden, Natalie, Trent Taylor, Mike Tobin, Sana Kibler, Karen Northup, Senia Lund, Darlene Picatti, Steve, Baby Cale, Sandy Casper, Rob Seel, Irene, Spike Adams, Jane Peterson, Mel & Joan Jangard, Kikue Lugo, Ezekiel's grandmother, Shirley Taylor, Michaela Karn, Richardo, Marah Ben, the Peterson Family, Laura and Emma .

The Christian Outreach Committee Invites You to Summer Evening Meal & Worship Service at Red Willow Vineyard, Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

This will be a fund raiser for food for our Pear Place Vets. Tickets and a sign-up sheet will be available next Sunday.

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*Called by God to Worship, Learn, and Nurture; Sent to Serve and Tell*

Christ Lutheran Church - ELCA

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[www.christlutheranyakima.org](http://www.christlutheranyakima.org)   Worship at 9:30 am

Pastor Chris;' Office Days: Tuesday—Thursday, 509-907-3760

Deacon Kathy's Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 11:00 - 2:00