



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as his sons (children) through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (Ephesians 1:3-8 - NIV)

Prayer: Almighty God, I thank You for planting in me the seed of Your Word. By Your Holy Spirit help me to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

- Greetings by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 366**

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Amos 7:10 – Amos 8:3 – A Shepherd

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 78 (Lit. pg. 95 – Sung by the congregation)

Second Lesson– Ephesians 1:3-14-Redemption & Forgiveness

Gospel Lesson– Mark 6:7-13-The Twelve Send Two by Two.

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 372**

Sermon Text: Ephesians 1:3-8

Sermon Theme: Chosen by God – Before Creation

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SING

Hymn **C.W. 356**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 345**



SERMON TEXT: Ephesians 1:3-8

Vs. 3 – Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing **in Christ**.

Vs. 4 – For **He chose us in Him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in His sight. **In Love**

Vs. 5 – He predestined us to be adopted as His sons / children **through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with His pleasure and will –

Vs. 6 – to the praise of His glorious grace, **which He has freely given us in the One He loves**.

Vs. 7 – In Him we have redemption through HIS blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace

Vs. 8 – That He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

GREETING: He (God) saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, Whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Have any of you done any shopping for a cell phone?

If you have ever done any shopping for a cell phone, you might find it a bit overwhelming?

There are a large number of brands and sizes and capabilities.

You can look at the specification for each phone and compare one to another.

Then you can even pick your color.

Then you look at the price, and that can quickly narrow down your search.

Which cell phone do you chose???

Today in our sermon text we hear that “**GOD chose US before the creation of the World**”.

That means that God knew who you were over 6,134 years ago. (The estimated age of the earth based upon the ages given in Genesis chapters 5 & 11, and other chapters and portions of Scripture.)

God Who always was and always will be.

God Who created the entire universe by His Almighty and Powerful Word, knows you and chose you to be His own dear child.

Why did God chose you to be His child?

The plain and simple answer is: LOVE / GRACE / God’s pure undeserved Love.

Did God see something in you that is better than the other person?

NO! We are all in the same boat, so to speak. We are all sinful from the time we were conceived in the womb of our mother. (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23)

As God’s children – What does this mean for us? What benefit do we have?

As God's children in Christ Jesus, it means that we can look forward to spending eternity / forever heaven, instead of hell.

As God's children we are also told by the Apostle Paul in the letter to the Ephesians that God wants us to be holy and blameless in His sight.

This holiness, this blamelessness is ours because of Christ Jesus Who has redeemed us and washed away all our sins by His Holy precious blood which He shed on the Cross of Calvary.

Vs. 7 – In Him we have redemption through HIS blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

This past week in Vacation Bible School – (VBS) the students looked at:

The Theme for this year was: **“God Weaves All Of Our Lives In Service To Him.”**

The craft that we had was weaving. Weaving of mats.

As nice as it was to do those crafts, we learned that our weaving is nothing compared to what God does and has done for us and for all creation.

We looked at various Bible passages which demonstrate that God wove us together in the womb of our Mother and how God guided and led the lives of others.

Psalm 139:13-16 - 13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

We learned that God is way smarter than we are:

Isaiah 55:6-9 - Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

In a world that has nearly 8 Billion people with a circumference of 25,000 miles spanning the time frame of about 6,134 years, God knows each one of you by name.

God wove and guided you life and gave you the mother and father that He did.

God led you to the Word of God, and here today to hear the Word of God and the message of Salvation in Christ Jesus our Risen and Living Savior.

God is the One who will raise each of us up on the Last Day, and those who believe in Jesus will spend eternity in heaven where there is no more sin or death or pain or sorrow and we will receive those new glorified bodies.

As we briefly look at this section of Scripture which speaks of the Doctrine of Election, it is important that we remember that even though we have been chosen by God to spend eternity in heaven, it DOES NOT mean that God also chose some people to spend eternity in hell.

John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the World.

I Timothy 2:1-4 teaches us that God wants all mankind to be saved.

So instead of focusing on the why some and not others, instead focus on TELLING others so that they too may know of Jesus our Risen Savior and enjoy heaven with us. AMEN

THEME: Chosen by God – Before Creation!