

A man with a beard, wearing a red and black plaid button-down shirt, stands against a light blue background. A solid black horizontal bar covers his eyes. The text 'IDENTITY MATTERS' is overlaid on this bar, with 'IDENTITY' in white on the black background and 'MATTERS' in black on the white background.

# IDENTITY MATTERS

A SERMON SERIES

**LIVING IN THE TRUTH.**

**8:30 a.m. ~ Sunday, August 15**

## PRELUDE

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

*Organ*

## WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

### OPENING HYMN “Come, You Thankful People, Come”

#### OPENING LITURGY *based on Psalm 34*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

P: We confess to You, Lord.

C: **Our mouths have not always praised You through our words, and we have boasted in things other than You. Help us humbly hear and be glad, that we may taste and see that the Lord is good.**

P: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

C: **I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

P: We confess to You, Lord.

C: **We have sought after other things than You and have let our fears impede our faith. Give us hearts centered on You, that we may taste and see that the Lord is good.**

P: Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

C: **This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.**

P: We confess to You, Lord.

C: **Our thoughts, words, and actions have not been faithful, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Hear us and save us from our troubles, that we may taste and see that the Lord is good.**

P: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

C: **Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**RESPONSE “Come, You Thankful People, Come”**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Hebrews 12:1-11 [ESV]**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:38-48 [ESV]**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

**AFFIRMATION of FAITH** *The Apostles’ Creed*

**HYMN** “**Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace**”

**SERMON** “**CANCEL CULTURE & POLARIZATION**”

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING RESPONSE** “**What Shall I Render to the Lord**”

**PRAYERS of the CHURCH**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**THE PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

P: Always and everywhere praise and thanks are due to You, almighty God, through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, by whose perfect obedience and all-sufficient sacrifice we are bold to stand in Your presence, now and in the day of judgment. Therefore, with those who bear Your name on earth and those who praise Your name on high, we join in the everlasting hymn:

## **SANCTUS**

## **WORDS of INSTITUTION**

## **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

## **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

*Organ*

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **CLOSING RESPONSE “Nunc Dimittis”**

## **POSTLUDE**

“Æolian Fanfare”

*Organ*

Charles Callahan



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