

there will not be any among the kings like you all your days. If you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days.”

Psalm 119:97-104 (responsively)

L: Oh, how I love Your law!

C: All the day long it is in my mind.

L: Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies,

C: and it is always with me.

L: I have more understanding than all my teachers,

C: for Your decrees are my study.

L: I am wiser than the elders,

C: because I observe Your commandments.

L: I restrain my feet from every evil way,

C: that I may keep Your Word.

L: I do not shrink from Your judgments,

C: because You Yourself have taught me.

L: How sweet are Your words to my taste!

C: They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

L: Through Your commandments I gain understanding;

C: therefore I hate every lying way.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Please stand.

Alleluia page 83

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:40-52

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*..... page 83

The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day’s journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.” And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s *house*?” But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart.

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ* page 83

You may be seated.

SERMON: Pastor Steve Bang

“Drifting Is For Snow” Hebrews 2:1-3a

Hymn, We Three Kings of Orient AreGrey Hymn Book #206

Please stand.

Nicene Creed page 84

Prayer

Sharing of the Peace.

You may be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory, Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful page 86

Prayer page 87

Prayer List—Kylie Holst, Marlas Reimann, Barb Miller, Angela Haugen, Marlys Haugen, Mike Haack, Roger Peterson, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil. All prayer requests can be submitted to: www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer; leave message on church answering system @641-567-3733; or called in to Pastor Steve @ 641-581-2868.

“Drifting is for Snow” - Hebrews 2:1-3a

1. “We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not _____ away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we _____ such a great salvation?”
2. We drift apart in marriage and other relationships because of the same problem that causes us to drift apart from God = _____.
3. For some weird reason, many think that their marriage relationship is _____ free. It is not.
4. Drifting is for _____, not for your spiritual life, marriage, or relationships.
5. “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a _____ man who built his house on the _____.” (Matt. 7:24)
6. We have an enemy, _____, who is constantly trying to make us ineffective for Christ, who tries to convince us that we don’t need God’s help.
7. We are indeed children of God through faith in Jesus but we must remain _____ on God’s grace, God’s strength, and God’s leading.
8. _____ is the sin most likely to keep you from crying out for a Savior.
9. Just as pride, neglect, and drifting can move me toward spiritual _____, so my acknowledgment of my dependence and trust in God can move me toward the _____ that God has intended for me all along.
10. “_____ me, O God, and know my heart! _____ me and know my thoughts! See if there be any wicked way in me and _____ me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24)
11. Are you a ‘drifter’?

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