

1 Kathy to do the dance of the spider and
2 the fly. But
3 we couldn't find anyone to dance the part
4 of the fly. So instead she
5 went with joy, and that was beautiful. I
6 was invited this year to my
7 high school 50th reunion.
8 Yeah, Yeah I'm not going to
9 go. It's actually the same weekend
10 as our men's retreat. By the way, Brent,
11 I'm coming to the men's retreat. This is
12 my official announcement.
13 And I'm I'm very committed to this
14 family that I've been a part of for so
15 long. And the men's retreat has been
16 a a meaningful event for me every year,
17 so I'm going to that. But the
18 invitation got me thinking about
19 reunions. Many of you
20 have shared with me about going to family
21 reunions. at various times and
22 and talked about how wonderful they were.
23 I I like family reunions. Family reunions
24 are terrific. Family reunions are kind of
25 like memorial services, except nobody
26 had to die to get everybody there.
27 So it's a good thing. I think of that
28 kind of like God's family,
29 except in the case of God's family,
30 somebody did have to die to get everybody
31 there. But he did, and here we are.
32 UmmSchool reunions, it seems to me, are
33 a little bit different. You know Going to
34 your high school, 30th reunion,
35 50th reunion, it strikes me...
36 Janelle and I went to her five-year
37 reunion, I think. That's the only high
38 school reunion I think we've ever been
39 to. But as I think about it,
40 school reunions, high school reunions are
41 are sort of like memorial services
42 also. Except in the case of
43 those reunions, it's it's a memorial
44 service where everybody has died.
45 Because we get together to
46 remember and reminisce about the people
47 that we were. But those people aren't
48 here anymore. And they ain't
49 coming back. But for a little while it's
50 kind of fun to kind of put yourself back
51 there, remember who you used to be.
52 Our text for today
53 is one that is a go-to text for me.
54 This is a week in between. We had one
55 week left before Mission Month
56 started, so I sort of like pulled
57 something out of the bag, and I was
58 drawn to a text that has been meaningful
59 to me over the years, for many, many
60 years, especially at times of memorial
61 services. Umm
62 Gospel of Mark was written for disciples,
63 we're told, who are in trouble. There was
64 persecution, there was uncertainty for
65 first century Christians.
66 Realities that Mark was
67 aware of. The apostle Peter, who we
68 believe stands behind the Gospel of Mark,
69 very aware of. And the story of Jesus

70 calmly seeing gives a powerful answer
71 to a very deep,
72 very significant, very important
73 question. So let's read
74 our text for today, it's chapter four of
75 the Gospel of Mark. Verses 35 to
76 41. Hear the word of God.
77 On that day when evening had come, he
78 said to them, Let us go across to the
79 other side. And leaving the crowd, they
80 took him with them in the boat just as he
81 was, and other boats were with him.
82 And a great windstorm arose, and the
83 waves were breaking into the boat so that
84 the boat was already filling, but
85 he was in the stern of
86 sleep on the cushion. And they
87 woke him and said to him, Teacher,
88 do you not care that we are perishing? And
89 he awoke and rebuked the wind
90 and said to the sea, Peace,
91 be still. And the wind ceased
92 and there was a great calm. He said
93 to them, Why are you so
94 afraid? Have you still
95 no faith? And they were filled with great
96 fear and said to one another, Who
97 then is this, that even the
98 wind and the sea obey
99 him? Let's pray. Lord
100 God, we thank you and we
101 praise you, and we affirm together
102 that you reign all the time,
103 forever and ever. Lord,
104 reign now in our hearts
105 and minds as we hear your word. and
106 reign in us as we respond according
107 to your will for us. And we pray this in
108 your name and for your sake. Amen.
109 Oh, all this talk about high school
110 reminds me, I think back. I
111 played basketball in high school. I
112 know you can tell by my, you know,
113 look like a basketball player, right? No,
114 not exactly. I was one of those little
115 short guys that run around dribbling the
116 ball. Umm My
117 basketball career was
118 pretty pretty
119 unremarkable. I did make some teams,
120 played JB basketball um
121 when I was a sophomore, and that was when
122 I had one of the low points of
123 my athletic career. We were
124 playing at our arch rival,
125 North High. I was at Salinas High,
126 Salinas High Cowboys, a lot of you
127 probably have heard of them.
128 We were playing the North High Vikings,
129 and it was the end of the game.
130 And I was the little guy that dribbled a
131 lot, so it was my job to bring the ball
132 up, and the coach, we called time out.
133 There were about, I don't know, 15
134 seconds left in the game. We were down by
135 one. Yeah, it's one of those situations
136 that you dream about when you're playing
137 ball in your front yard with the hoop
138 that your dad set up. Three, two, shot.

139 They win! Well, Didn't go
140 that way.
141 Heck, it didn't go that way. Most of the
142 time I was in my front yard. 3-2,
143 oh darn, miss it. OK, do it again. 3-2,
144 oh OK, do it again. You had to do about
145 10 3-2-1's before one went in, and that
146 was the one. Now,
147 we're back at the North High gym. So I'm
148 supposed to bring the ball up. We
149 outlined this play, there were a couple
150 of options. I'm supposed to bring the
151 ball up the court. When I get up into
152 the front court, ummOur
153 short-shooting guard, Craig, was going to
154 cut across the key, and I was going to
155 throw it to him so he could go up for a
156 jumper. He was one of our best shooters.
157 Or maybe Howard, our big tall guy,
158 he was over six feet. Actually,
159 he was a pretty tall guy. He was then
160 going to come across the key, and if I
161 could, I was going to throw it into him,
162 and then he could take it and maybe get a
163 short shot sometime in these last 15
164 seconds or so. So I'm dribbling the ball
165 up court. And the crowd
166 is counting 10, nine, eight,
167 seven, six, five. I'm
168 I'm not even quite past
169 half-court, and it's getting down to
170 almost game over. So
171 I took a couple more dribbles in from way
172 further than I ever shot before, because
173 the crowd was now down to one. I
174 heaved it up, the ball sailed through the
175 air, and I did not hear the buzzer.
176 And I'm really sorry to report, this is
177 not made-up. This is a true story. The
178 ball slammed against the backboard. It
179 may have grazed the rim on the way by.
180 And the buzzer still didn't go off. It
181 came off and was batted around by several
182 hands chaotically, and the buzzer
183 still didn't go off. And finally, it
184 bounced over toward the sideline and was
185 going out of bounds. And then finally,
186 I heard the buzzer. Game
187 over. Scoreboard says, We lost.
188 Do you know what that crowd did?
189 They counted down the time
190 about three times faster than the
191 scoreboard was doing.
192 And little sophomore Jay
193 believed the crowd.
194 The crowd did not have the last word
195 about the time. the scoreboard, and
196 then the buzzer did. Now, perhaps some of
197 you have seen those movies, where after
198 the young guy makes a terrible mistake
199 and loses the game for them, the
200 coach puts his arm
201 over the young guy and
202 says, That's okay.
203 Let's learn from our mistakes, and you'll
204 get them next time. Keep trying. You
205 know, that sort of thing. Apparently my
206 coach hadn't seen any of those movies.
207 Ohh That was the worst shot I've

208 ever seen! That was not the play that we
209 drew up! Thanks, coach, I knew that.
210 You know, in those movies, the players
211 will rally around the down-hearted
212 colleague as he
213 sits quietly. in the locker
214 room. Hey, we'll get him next time,
215 buddy. My My
216 fellow players apparently had not seen
217 those movies either. Everybody moved away
218 from me. My best
219 friend, who still is my best friend in
220 many ways, actually came to that game and
221 was sitting in the stands, and as we were
222 walking out to the car to head home, I
223 said, Yeah, I guess there were still, you
224 know, three or four seconds left on the
225 clock when I shot it. He said, Well,
226 actually, it was about 12.
227 Yeah. So this
228 leads to what I consider to be a very,
229 very important question, and this episode
230 for me, this painful episode in my high
231 school basketball career, is one that has
232 stuck with me, because I do think that it
233 it speaks to us in some deeper ways.
234 And the question is this. Who
235 or what, gets the last
236 word about us.
237 And I'd like to suggest four
238 possibilities today, represented by the
239 crowd, which would be people's
240 opinions and memories and things that
241 that people out there have to say about
242 me or you. The
243 buzzer, which represents a
244 physical reality, death,
245 last word. Or the scoreboard,
246 Look up there, there is a score, which
247 can represent for us moral reality or the
248 law, or, number four,
249 Jesus Christ. Who gets the
250 last word about us?
251 That's the question. And how we answer
252 this question will have an
253 enormous impact on how we
254 live. So it is of crucial importance to
255 get the answer right to this question.
256 Who does get the last
257 word about me?The crowd?
258 People's opinions and memories, the
259 things that we'd like to get people to
260 say about us, or the things that people
261 say about us, whether we have
262 any control over it or not?Seems to
263 me, if if I'm saying the crowd,
264 Gets the last word about me. What that
265 crowd is going to say to me is the same
266 thing that that crowd way back at North
267 High in Salinas, CA said to me all those
268 years ago. I doubt that anybody there
269 remembers that game, but I do.
270 And if the crowd had anything to say to
271 me, maybe they spoke through my friend a
272 little bit. If that crowd had anything to
273 say to me as one who listened to them,
274 who thought they had the
275 essential final word about
276 reality as I was experiencing it, you

277 know what that crowd would have said to
278 me?You do, don't you?They would have said
279 to me, whatever words they chose,
280 You're an idiot. You're a fool.
281 You listened to us?We
282 were trying to manipulate you and we
283 succeeded. You played right into
284 our hands. Good news,
285 friends. Who
286 gets the last word about us?
287 Not the crowd, but
288 Jesus. Don't you care if
289 we drown?We're perishing
290 here, Lord. You're sleeping. What is the
291 matter with you?We know
292 reality, and you apparently are
293 not in touch.
294 And Jesus demonstrated,
295 in that moment in time, that the
296 crowd, in this case, his own disciples,
297 but any other crowd of human beings,
298 does not know even what they think
299 they know, and do not get the
300 last word. They're crying out,
301 10, 9, 8, 7, 6! It's
302 almost over! And Jesus
303 says, Quiet. Be
304 still, and
305 all nature obeys him.
306 One day all nature's gonna obey him too.
307 Just not today, yet.
308 And the disciples' reaction,
309 quite natural, very real,
310 unrehearsed. They were
311 terrified. Boy, there's an honest piece
312 of scripture. These followers of
313 Jesus, He does this, and they are
314 stared out of their wits. Who
315 is this that even the wind and the
316 waves obey Him?Wow.
317 We thought He was special. We didn't
318 think He was this, whatever this
319 is. The identity of Jesus is
320 revealed here as the
321 silencer of every
322 crowd. all the stuff that we
323 hear clamoring around us all the
324 time out there, all the stuff that
325 we say with such passion with one
326 another when we're talking about things
327 and debating things, one day, Jesus
328 is going to say, Quiet,
329 be still. All
330 humanity will have no choice
331 but to do as it is. So what?
332 What do we do?Listen to him.
333 What does he want?What does Jesus want?
334 And he tells us in this story, Are you
335 still so afraid?Do you still
336 have no faith?That's
337 what Jesus wants us to have. Faith.
338 Trust in him. Hang on to that,
339 he's telling us in this text.
340 Well, how about the buzzer?Material
341 reality, death. What
342 would that have to say to us?Well, I'll
343 tell you what it said to me way back
344 then. It's anything it might say to us
345 today. Game over. That's it.

346 Good news. Not physical
347 reality, not wind, not waves,
348 not death, but
349 Jesus. Guess the last word about
350 us. The identity of
351 Jesus, Lord,
352 over all nature, all the elements.
353 So what?Well, this text
354 doesn't teach us that Jesus calms all of
355 our storms. Actually, I think he's able
356 to use storms for his purposes, faith
357 purposes, oftentimes. And
358 he has, apparently, other priorities,
359 like developing inner character in his
360 people, faith in him, a connection with
361 him, in his people. that's more important
362 to Him than calming every storm that
363 comes along. And who knows how many
364 storms He actually does calm for us, and
365 we're just not aware. What do we do?We
366 trust that He gets the last word over our
367 storms as well.
368 This can be a source of great
369 comfort for us. Has the doctor
370 told you you have cancer?Or some
371 other medical calamity
372 that maybe even threatens your life?
373 Friends, with all my heart,
374 I tell you, cancer
375 will not get the last
376 word about you.
377 Jesus will.
378 How about the scoreboard?A lot of us
379 Christians really like the scoreboard.
380 The law, right and wrong.
381 I'll tell you what the scoreboardwill
382 tell us, every one of us, if we're
383 honest, which we aren't, but in a moment
384 of honesty, we should know that all the
385 scoreboard can ever tell us
386 is you lose.
387 The scoreboard that is the law, capital
388 L, God's truth
389 and righteousness, what God
390 is in Himself, the standards
391 that God sets,If
392 you think you measure up to that, you
393 are badly deceived.
394 All of us, one measure or
395 another, turned from God, have
396 separated ourselves from God by our own
397 choices and actions, and not just because
398 of the human condition. We fit right into
399 it. And the scoreboard is going to tell
400 us, if that's what we're counting on, one
401 day the law will say you you lose, you
402 did not measure up, you do not deserve
403 You cannot be reconciled to a God who
404 is perfect and holy, holy, holy,
405 because you are not, not,
406 notGood news,
407 not the scoreboard, not the law,
408 but Jesus gets the last word
409 about us. In the boat,
410 after he calmed the storm, he didn't say
411 to his disciples, Now do I have your
412 attention, get out there and do the right
413 thing. I'm sick and tired of you guys
414 falling short. I've told you what you're

415 supposed to do, and now go do it. Is that
416 what he said?No. Do you
417 still have no faith?
418 Trust in me. This
419 is spoken to us very powerfully in
420 another text, from the book of
421 Romans, Paul's letter through Romans,
422 chapter three, verses 19 to 24.
423 Paul writes this. Now we know
424 that whatever the law says, it speaks to
425 those who are under the law, so that
426 every mouth may be stopped, and the
427 whole world may be held accountable to
428 God. This is not going
429 well so far. For
430 by works of the law, no human being will
431 be justified in his sight, since through
432 the law comes knowledge of sin.
433 But now,And friends, this
434 is one of the biggest butts in all of the
435 Bible. But,
436 now, the righteousness
437 of God has been manifested
438 apart from the law, although the law and
439 the prophets bear witness to it, the
440 righteousness of God through faith
441 in Jesus Christ for all who
442 believe, for there is no distinction,
443 for all have sinned,all have
444 sinned and fall short of the glory of God
445 and are justified by his
446 grace as a gift through the
447 redemption that is in Christ
448 Jesus. Hallelujah.
449 The gospel. Identity of
450 Jesus, the overruler
451 over every rule. So what?
452 Live in a love relationship with
453 him,rather than a desperate and
454 futile alliance with the law.
455 I'm going to share another story. It's
456 one of my favorite stories. I I like to
457 tell people it's my best story. And let
458 me apologize before I start to you,
459 Joyce. Joyce Myers back here.
460 The last time I told this story, which
461 was probably, I don't know, 10 years ago,
462 Joyce came to me after the service. He
463 said, You know, we've heard that story
464 before.
465 So Joyce, I'm sorry you're going to hear
466 this story for at least a third time. It
467 might be the fourth time that I've used
468 it over my 27 years. But it's one of
469 my best that I have, another real-life
470 story. It's about a wedding
471 that Danelle and I and our kids went to.
472 A guy who now is Uncle
473 Marty, brother of of somebody
474 who actually is their uncle, was getting
475 married down in the Bay Area. We lived in
476 Chico, California. So we
477 drove down Highway 99, getting onto
478 101, and went into the Bay Area for
479 this late afternoon, early evening
480 wedding in the Bay Area, drove down in
481 our little brown Aerostar.
482 Danelle's mom went with us, also a friend
483 of Marty's. And

484 she and Grandpa had just gotten a new
485 car, a used car, but this gray
486 sedan. We had never seen it. We actually
487 saw it for the first time when we got to
488 the wedding. She was there. We went to
489 the wedding. Time to go home. It's in the
490 evening. It's dark. So it's
491 fairly late, maybe nine o'clock or so.
492 We're driving back home. And it was my
493 job in our Aerostar to
494 follow Grandma, because we decided we
495 were going to put our oldest Brian, who I
496 think was in junior high at the time, yeah
497 So grandma didn't have to drive by
498 herself. So one of our kids drove with
499 grandma. We were going to go up to the
500 coffee tree. Anybody ever heard of the
501 coffee tree? It's one of the crimes of
502 this century that the coffee tree is no
503 longer there. It's been taken over.
504 There's a bunch of shops there. The
505 coffee tree doesn't exist anywhere there
506 in Vacaville, California. But we're going
507 to stop in the parking lot of the coffee
508 tree and make the switch. And then she's
509 going to go on to her house and do it. So
510 it's my job to tail grandma in her
511 gray sedan. Which was new. I
512 I recognize it. It's gray, had tail
513 lights that were red. You know
514 Well, we'd been driving for about, I
515 don't know, 45 minutes up the road,
516 and Danelle had been kind of dozing off a
517 little, and she she kind of welcomed me
518 and said, Where's Grandma? And I realized
519 I hadn't been watching. I'd been thinking
520 about my sermon. It was one of those
521 days, I was an associate pastor at the
522 end, it was one of those days when I was
523 going to be preaching the other day, so I
524 was thinking about my sermon. And of
525 course, so in myin my masculine
526 dad embarrassment, I said, Oh, yeah,
527 she's right there, thinking, I hope she's
528 up there.
529 And it's like asking for directions, only
530 in this case, it's while you're moving.
531 So I sped up to see if I
532 could catch her. It took me longer than I
533 thought it would, but finally, there's a
534 rare sedan. And I pull in behind her.
535 And now they're not going to lose me this
536 time, Grandma. And so
537 I'm I'm right behind her. She speeds up,
538 I speed up. She slows down and I slow
539 down. She actually changed lanes and went
540 over into the the far right lane. I
541 didn't know why because we had a long way
542 to go. And so I pulled over behind her.
543 And so now I'm traveling behind her. And
544 And then things started getting weird.
545 Then she slowed way, way down.
546 And I could see her head in the
547 windshield and looked like Brian's head
548 next to her. And she slowed down, What,
549 you suppose this car probably or
550 something? So I slowed way down. We're
551 down to maybe... 35, 40 miles an hour on
552 the on the highway here. And

553 then she pedaled the metal. She just took
554 off. She said, well, I don't know what's
555 going on, but you're not going to lose
556 me, Grandma. And I come in right behind
557 it, and we're going down the road. And
558 then it still got weirder.
559 Then she pulled off onto one of these
560 exits where there isn't anything, you
561 know goes off into fields. She pulls
562 off. I said, OK, I pull off behind her.
563 And then she's going up there and she's
564 slowing way down and I'm coming out.
565 Maybe she's got car trouble or something.
566 So she slows way down and I'm just there
567 behind her and she looks like she's going
568 to park. And then all of a sudden,
569 she floors it, goes around the
570 corner, back on the freeway,
571 going the other direction. I'm
572 desperately trying to follow her. But our
573 aerosargeant did not have the juice, and
574 she got back on the freeway, and she is
575 going way ahead of us, and I could not
576 stay with her. At that point,
577 finally, I was a smart guy.
578 I turned... First we're saying, Do you
579 think she forgot her purse or something
580 back at the reception? And then Danelle
581 says, You don't suppose that's not her?
582 I said, Well... I don't know if it's her
583 or not, but there's no way we're catching
584 her, so I guess we'll just go back and
585 wait in the parking lot if she had to do
586 something. This is before cell phones, by
587 the way. So,
588 we turned back around, went
589 back up to the coffee
590 tree, and sure enough, pulled into the
591 parking lot, and there was grandma in the
592 real gray sedan, made the
593 exchange. That was a weird,
594 weird little story for us.
595 But... It had to be even weirder
596 for the people in the other car, right?
597 Honey, I think this brown
598 van is following us. Oh, don't be
599 ridiculous. Just speed up. They're
600 speeding up with us. Okay, all
601 right, look. Just Just slow way down.
602 They'll go around you. They're not
603 going around us.
604 All right, pull over and let them go by.
605 They're pulling in behind us.
606 Well, go, go, go, go. They're coming with
607 us. Ohh Just relax. Don't Don't
608 panic. This is stupid. Just pull off
609 at this next exit. There'd be no reason
610 for them to pull off here. They're
611 pulling off with us.
612 I've heard of this sort of thing where
613 people follow you and then they murder
614 you and take your car, probably
615 gang members in an aerostar.
616 Ah Well, go, go, go, go, go! Go
617 back the other way, go! Go! Faster,
618 faster, faster! You know, to this day, I
619 imagine that there is some family
620 that is still today telling the story of
621 how they narrowly escaped being

622 murdered by gang members in an aerosaur
623 on a dark summer night.
624 Well, here's the deal. There is a point
625 to this, by the way. It seems to me
626 that both of those adventures, the us
627 and our trying to keep up car, and them
628 and their trying to outpace car,
629 can become symbolic for how a lot of us
630 tend to live our lives. When we
631 live in primary relationship
632 to the law, umm
633 you can be desperately trying to keep up.
634 I'm a good boy. I'm going to do what's
635 right. Oh, you're going to go faster?
636 Well, I'm going faster, too. You're
637 setting the pace. I'm coming behind you.
638 Guess what?You can't keep up.
639 You do not have the
640 firepower in your engine to keep up
641 with the perfect law. The law's good,
642 but there's no way I can keep up with it.
643 And so I can live my whole life chasing
644 after this law that just keeps getting
645 further and further ahead of me. Right?
646 Or,You can live your life desperately
647 trying to stay ahead. Don't let it catch
648 you. Don't let anyone find out.
649 Keep up appearances. Stay ahead.
650 And you live your whole life looking in
651 your rear view mirror hoping that God,
652 the law, other people aren't really
653 catching on to what's really going on
654 here with you. Because sooner or later
655 they're going to catch you, you're going
656 to have to pull over, and they're going
657 to kill you. when they find out,
658 and they will find out. You can live your
659 life in relationship with law, either one
660 of these ways, and they're both bad. Much
661 better to stop the car,
662 open the door, and by
663 faith, invite Jesus into
664 the car with you, and drive the rest of
665 the way together. That's the Christian
666 life. Identity of Jesus,
667 Jesus fulfills the law. Jesus
668 lived the life that we're supposed to
669 live, but can't. Jesus was
670 sinless. Jesus kept up,
671 and he did it on our behalf.
672 Jesus fulfills the law, and Jesus
673 gives his righteousness.
674 So what?What do we do?Live in
675 primary relation to Jesus,
676 not in primary relationship to the law.
677 See, after the law has spoken about us,
678 guilty, you lose,
679 Jesus still has more to say.
680 After the crowds have cried out, after
681 physical reality has made its
682 pronouncements, after the law has
683 given its final answer,
684 Jesus gets the last word.
685 Which then leads us to another very
686 important question. If, in fact, Jesus
687 gets the last word about me, if, in fact,
688 Jesus gets the last word about us, what
689 is that word?
690 If Jesus has the last thing that's going

691 to be said about me, the last thing
692 that's going to be said about us, what is
693 he going to say?What is
694 Jesus' last word?And here's
695 where the good news goes
696 to the nth degree. Jesus
697 not only has the last word,
698 Jesus is
699 the last word.
700 Last word, not the crowd, not the
701 buzzer, not the scoreboard, but Jesus,
702 the Lord. Jesus, God's word
703 incarnate. And what is
704 this last word of Jesus, last word of God?
705 I love
706 you. That's it.
707 Jesus is God's I love you
708 incarnate in the flesh.
709 And so, God's last
710 word has
711 already been spoken.
712 You don't need to wait for the buzzing to
713 sound. God's I
714 love you has been spoken. God's
715 Come to me to have life eternal.
716 has already been spoken. God's I
717 forgive you has already been
718 spoken. We don't need to guess.
719 We read the gospel. So,
720 who are we going to listen to?
721 Whose word will we trust?
722 Whose words are going to motivate
723 our life choices?
724 Why are you so afraid?Do you
725 still have no faith?Let's pray.
726 Lord Jesus, we thank you once again
727 for the truth that you bring to
728 us. Today, I'm especially
729 thankful that you have shown me, shown us
730 the truth that you are the
731 word, the word incarnate,
732 the last word for us,
733 the one that will overshadow
734 734
735 00:32:17,760 --> 00:32:19,1000
736 and drown out every other word that we
737 735
738 00:32:19,1000 --> 00:32:22,760
739 hear. That in the end, for
740 me, for us, your I
741 love you will be the word that
742 resounds into eternity as
743 all the others fade away. Thank you.
744 Lord, help us to live in this truth as
745 much as possible, with as much faith as
746 as we can muster, you helping
747 us. to go out into the rest of
748 this day and the rest of our days with
749 this assurance taken to heart,
750 motivating us. We pray
751 this in your name. And Lord,
752 now we pray for one another,
753 remembering those who have asked us to
754 pray for them.
755 And so we lift before you my friend
756 Gary, and Steve, and
757 Alanin, and Lisa, Lila,
758 and family, for Jeff, for
759 Shirley, for Kellyanne and

760 Emily and Mallory, for
761 Lori and Paul, and all the others who
762 have been devastated by the recent floods
763 in Texas. Lord, we pray for
764 families who have lost loved ones, the
765 Penn family and Lynch family, Rivera
766 family, the family of Kellen.
767 We pray for our neighbors next door. Lord,
768 Pray that you bring some of them to share
769 our picnic with us next week. A little
770 hospitality. Ask for your
771 blessing for them. Pray for our church as
772 it continues the exciting
773 time of looking for a new pastor for our
774 church. Lord, we pray for those serving
775 in the military, for Noah and Taryn,
776 Cody, Matthew, Weston, Chase,
777 Levi, Gary, Molly, Brian, Anna,
778 Margaret, Benjamin, and scandal
779 especially, ask that you
780 would bless them and watch over them.
781 Lord, hear us now as we share together in
782 the special prayer that you taught us,
783 saying, our Father, who art in
784 heaven, how will it be thy name,
785 thy kingdom come, thy
786 will be done, on earth as it is in
787 heaven. Give us this day our
788 daily bread. and forgive us our
789 sins as we forgive those who
790 sin against us. And lead us
791 not into temptation, but deliver
792 us from evil. For thine is the
793 kingdom and the power and
794 the glory forever. Amen.