

JULY 5, 2020

WELCOMING WORD *The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary."*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

L: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

C: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power

OPENING HYMN 719 God is Here! (vs 1, 2, 4)

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, here in speech.
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us: through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God, by the abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised.

C: You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 9:9-12 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 7:15-25a¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30¹⁶"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon";¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants;²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.²⁸ "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

MESSAGE – PASTOR JOHN TWITON

HYMN I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, and he made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water;
Thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that living stream;
My thirst was quenched; my soul revived, and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: We pray for your church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations of the world, but especially this day we pray for our United States as we celebrate our independence. Help us to foster relationships within our nation and around the world, that lead us to expansion of justice, love, and freedom. Lord, In your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. (We pray especially for ...) Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolations and free us from all that keeps us bound. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how live more faithfully, even when our usual practices are disrupted. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

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. 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.

BENEDICTION

*May the blessing of God our creator,
the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer,
and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter,
surround you and sustain you
until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: 567 God of Our Fathers

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies; Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past; in this free land by you our lot is cast.
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide and stay; Your word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, make you strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase; Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way; Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with heav'n born love and grace, until at last we meet before your face.



DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 131, A song of trust

Tuesday, Jeremiah 28:10-17, The broken yolk, the bars of iron

Wednesday, Jeremiah 13:1-11, The linen loincloth

Thursday, Psalm 65:1-13, Thanksgiving for earth's bounty

Friday, Romans 15:14-21, Paul's reason for confidence

Saturday, Isaiah 52:1-6, Zion to be set free

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "**Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.**" **Matthew 11:28** Jesus implores his followers to let go of the burdens of the religious authorities, and come to walk with him.

- Have the expectations of others/yourself sometimes felt like a burden?
- What do think Jesus means when he says: "These things have been revealed to infants"?
- What do you imagine sharing Jesus' yoke is like?
- What work does Jesus want you to join him in doing?

PRAY: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESS: May you find rest in joining your life to Jesus. Amen!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Jeff Paske

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)

Helen Martinson

Makenzee Smith

Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)

Martha Hartman

Jeannie U'Ren

Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)

Irene Brufat

Laurie Duden (Brenda's aunt),

Bill Steinhauer

Peter Toniazzo

Richard Schuhler(friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

LeRoy Collins

Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)

Sammy Peede, nephew of Kari and Dan Hustad

Delores Bryant

Brock Howe

Dorothy Jelle

Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)

Ruth Ann Nemet

Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)

Harlan Oimoen

Grace Aavang

Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)

Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)