

AUGUST 30, 2020

WELCOMING WORD Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. We gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,

C: and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

L: For your steadfast love is before my eyes,

C: and I walk in faithfulness to you.

OPENING HYMN #256 Oh, Sing Jubilee to the Lord

Oh, sing jubilee to the Lord, every land; Glory be to God!

Oh, serve him with gladness, as in his halls we stand.

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

He made us his own, and has given us breath; Glory be to God!

The sheep of his pasture, we need not fear our death.

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

Oh, come to his feast with thanksgiving and praise; Glory be to God!

Give glory to him, and your brightest banners raise.

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

His mercy is ours; he is Lord over all; Glory be to God!

May all generations find power in his call.

Sing praises to God out of Zion!

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 all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 15:15-21 ¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:9-21 ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28 ²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

MESSAGE – Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #492 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad-'ning way,
In peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

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: God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick (especially . . .). Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of community you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; 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: #377 *Lift High the Cross* (vs. 1, 4, 5)

REFRAIN

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim.
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

Come, Christian, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the son of God.

REFRAIN

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou has promised, draw us all to thee.

REFRAIN

So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory!

REFRAIN



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

RANDY SCHULZ AND FAMILY Randy's brother Gary passed away unexpectedly on August 8.

KATHY CONRAD AND FAMILY Kathy's son John died on August 13.

Diane Pladziewicz
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Dorothy Jelle
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Makenzee Smith
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Martha Hartman
Jeannie U'Ren
Ruth Ann Nemet
Irene Bruflat
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Julie Joles and her daughter and granddaughter

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, 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 17, Prayer for Deliverance

Tuesday, Revelation 3:7-13, Message to the church at Philadelphia

Wednesday, Jeremiah 17:5-18, Trust vs faithlessness

Thursday, Psalm 119:33-40, Love for God's instruction

Friday, Romans 10:15b-21, Faith comes by what is heard

Saturday, Ezekiel 33:1-6, Ezekiel as God's Sentinel

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God:" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for the disciple who Jesus has called a "rock."

- How many crosses do you have in your home? Are they jewelry or decoration? Do we really remember that the cross is a symbol of sacrifice?
- Do we seek life by denying ourselves, or do we think we can find more life by buying whatever we desire?
- Jesus tells Peter to 'get behind him'. Do we think we know better than Jesus? Or are we willing to let Jesus lead, even if we don't think we like what Jesus proposes for our life?

PRAY: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESS: May you have strength to take up your cross and follow Jesus. Amen!