

Worship in the Home: Sunday, June 21, 2020



Worship in the Home

Third Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 12 June 21, 2020

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. We offer this brief resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship, you are encouraged to prepare or adapt them locally for your context.

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for [reward](#), except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you were too powerful for me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. ⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹If I say, "I will not [mention](#) the Lord, or speak any more in the name of the Lord," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ¹⁰For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps Jeremiah can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." ¹¹But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹²O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the [heart](#) and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my

cause. ¹³Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For the Lord has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 69:7-10

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face. ⁸I have become a stranger to ^lmy own kindred, an alien to my ^lmother's children. ⁹Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me. ¹⁰I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to ^lmy reproach. ¹⁶Answer me, O LORD, for your ^llove is kind; in your great compassion, ^lturn to me. ¹⁷Hide not your face ^lfrom your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am ^lin distress. ¹⁸Draw near to me ^land redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of the master's household!"

²⁶"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a son against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and in-laws against one another;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Having read these readings, think of this:

There is terror all around. Violence and destruction, too. Telling the truth about that condition of the world, however, has always been unpopular. Jeremiah experienced rejection. Even more, Jesus was killed. And Jesus calls us to follow him, to be countercultural like Jeremiah, to value the gospel of Jesus Christ even more than what the world counts as family values, to tell the truth openly about human sin and God’s mercy. It will not be easy. Still, because of Jesus’ death and resurrection and our baptism into him, we can live a new life, unafraid of death. We can trust we are seen and cared for, even in this time, as surely as God sees the sparrow. And we can tell others of this care, by our words and by our lives.

If you have a hymnal (or using the graphic below), you might now sing or read “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 802) or “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 769).

[Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus](#)

[If You But Trust in God to Guide You](#)

Then pray together these prayers for our church and world:

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with words from today’s psalm, “your love is kind.”

A brief silence.

O God, Father in heaven, hold your church in your loving arms. Protect believers who face persecution for your sake. Bless the work of evangelists and teachers like Onesimos Nesib, whom we commemorate today, as they translate their faith into other languages. Strengthen our pastors, deacons, and church councils for their ministry during these troubling times.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our provider, here in the north the summer solstice reminds us of your care for the whole creation. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Feed all your creatures, both the animals and the humans, with the sustenance they need for life. Guide us to sources of energy that do not destroy the earth you have created.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our ruler, inspire our president, our governors and our legislators to work towards justice for all. Lead us to ways of life that are free from racial and ethnic prejudice. Strengthen the world's democracies, and sustain those who are working to secure free and safe elections. Give a home to refugees. Form our military and our police to maintain peace and to inhibit violence.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our physician, bring healing to all who are sick and suffering. Preserve the world from more waves of the coronavirus, and guide researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Protect those whose jobs expose them to contagion. Support our health care workers. We remember before you those we name here now:

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our peacemaker, inhabit each household in the land with your powerful peace. Train us to live together in harmony, especially when quarantined together. Nourish marriages, and sustain extended families. Protect children from harm of every kind.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our source of life, bless all fathers and father figures as they face both long-standing and emerging family needs. Comfort those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our beloved, receive now the petitions of our own hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

O God our beginning and our end, we bless you for all our forebears in family and faith who have lived and died in you. Remind us of their sacrifices, and at the end bring us with them in your household of joy.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God:

your love is kind.

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

Amen.

If you have a hymnal (or using the graphic below), you might now sing or read "How Firm a Foundation" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 796) or "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer." (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 618)

[How Firm a Foundation](#)

[Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer](#)

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

Devotional Music Links: For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress: "[Take My Life That I May Be](#)"; "[From the Rising of the Sun](#)"; "[Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ.](#)"

Materials for the commemoration of the Emanuel Nine (June 17) can be found at www.ELCA.org/EmanuelNine.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 6. **Tuesday** Revelation 2:8-11. **Wednesday** (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]. **Thursday** (commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melancthon, renewer of the church, died 1560) Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18. **Friday** Galatians 5:7-12. **Saturday** (commemoration of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444) Jeremiah 28:1-4. **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202) Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

Daily Prayer Resources are now available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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Please keep in your prayers this week: Kevin Johnson, Barbara Metzger, Rob Johnson and Steve Lindberg (Streeter Family Friend's & Kin), Noah Klenken (Fred Fixsen's Nephew), Ellsa Sorenson, Cal Curtis & Patty Thompson (Carole Holten's Son-in-Law & Sister), Bill Warner, David Warner, Emily (Ben & Casey's Daughter), Terry Newgard.

Family and Friends of: Ellsa Sorenson, who passed away this last week.