



## Worship in the Home

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 13 June 28, 2020

*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 welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

*The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.*

Let us pray.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).*

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great realms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm: 89:1-4, 15-18.**

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O Lord, forever <sup>1</sup>will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly <sup>1</sup>in the heavens.

<sup>3</sup><sup>a</sup>I have made a covenant with my <sup>1</sup>chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup>I will establish your <sup>l</sup> line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all <sup>l</sup> generations.’”

<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the <sup>l</sup> festal shout!  
They walk, O Lord, in the light <sup>l</sup> of your presence.

<sup>16</sup>They rejoice daily <sup>l</sup> in your name;  
they are jubilant <sup>l</sup> in your righteousness.

<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory <sup>l</sup> of their strength,  
and by your favor our might <sup>l</sup> is exalted.

<sup>18</sup>Truly, our shield belongs <sup>l</sup> to the Lord;  
our king to the Holy <sup>l</sup> One of Israel.

### **Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23**

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin **exercise** dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present any parts of your bodies to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented the parts of your bodies as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's **reward**; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Reflection**

*Having read these readings, think of this:*

“War, famine, and pestilence,” prophesied by the ancient prophets, are all around us today. We may wish to listen to people who speak of peace instead. We may long to say “amen” to their promises. But false comfort is worse than no comfort at all. Instead, in a hard time, we who have been baptized into Christ should offer welcome to people who speak the truth and we should offer comfort — “a cup of cold water” — to the least and littlest ones, the ones hurt by these times. The truth-speakers are the very emissaries of God. And the little ones, the vulnerable and un-justly treated ones, are the very presence of Jesus Christ to us. The truth in Christ saves us, turning our bodies from sin to real righteousness, from death to real life, from despair to hope, from lies to love.

*If you have a hymnal (or using the graphic below), you might now sing or read “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 707) or “Just As I Am, without One Plea.” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 592)*

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us  
Just As I Am, without One Plea

*Although distant from each other, we are called to join together to pray for our needy world. In response to each bid, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud, and to conclude each petition with the words* Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the church of Jesus Christ around the world.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for our own congregation and for its leadership.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the health of the earth – its lands, its seas, its animals.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God, our light and our shield:

**your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for those who work in our fields and produce our food.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for peace between and within nations.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for President Trump, the Congress, and the Supreme Court.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for a right observance of the Fourth of July.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for those who are oppressed, or enslaved, or poverty-stricken.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for an end to racism.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for both protesters and police.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all who are sick.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all who are sick or sorrowing from the coronavirus.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for medical workers and researchers.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for families facing an unprecedented summertime.

*A time for prayer.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us thank God for Bishop Irenaeus, the apostles Peter, Paul, and Thomas, and all those who have died in the faith, and let us pray that at our end we will join them in God's presence.

*A time for prayer.*

Receive our praise, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, the Holy One, you are yourself the cup of cold water we crave, relieving our deep thirst. Receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, for your mercy is great, now and forever. **Amen**

*If you have a hymnal (or using the graphic below), you might now sing or read "Amazing Grace" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 779) or "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak." (Evangelical Lutheran worship 676)*

[Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound](#)  
[Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak](#)

*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.**

## **Offering**

Please remember to mail in your offerings so that Grace can continue to serve you.

## **Offering Prayer**

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the

Heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **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: "[Amazing Grace](#)"; "[Bread of the World](#)"; "[The Gift of Grace](#)."

### **Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** (Peter and Paul, Apostles) John 21:15-19. **Tuesday** 1 John 4:1-6. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators) Matthew 11:20-24. **Thursday** Psalm 145:8-14. **Friday** (Thomas, Apostle) John 14:1-7. **Saturday** Luke 10:21-24. **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

**Daily Prayer Resources** use in the home are 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  
Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and [sundaysandseasons.com](#), © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress.  
Readings from *Readings for the Assembly* © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the [United States](#) of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

**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:** Harry Ekelund, who passed away this last week.

Dear members of Grace,

Church council is in need of volunteers to develop a plan to reopen Grace Lutheran Church safely and within established guidelines required by the ELCA and the State of Minnesota. Council would like to establish 2 teams to work in tandem towards this goal.

SMART Team (Bishop Aitken's suggested team title, all IQs are welcome!) This team will develop all the procedures necessary for opening the church safely. Every aspect of a church service will need to be evaluated from the moment one enters the church until one leaves the church. A plan

will be developed and submitted to the ELCA NE Minnesota Synod for review. Approval by the NE Synod will be required before we will be able to hold services.

IT or Tecnology Team will focus on integrated technology (IT) that would enhance our worship service while providing for the safety of all. Team members will need to look at various ways to broadcast our service, perhaps to cars in the parking lot and to members at home at the same time. What technology would work the best in the sanctuary to display hymns and liturgy on a screen or monitor to minimize the use of hymnals? Team members will need to develop a plan and cost estimate and provide to church council for approval.

In order for all of us at Grace Lutheran to find our new normal during these difficult times, we need members like you to volunteer to help plot the course so we can come out stronger when we reach the other side of this pandemic. In these uncharted waters of Covid-19, we all need to row together to reach the other side.

Feel free to contact me by email [weford@frontiernet.net](mailto:weford@frontiernet.net) or by phone at 426-3250 or 218-821-6794 if you would like to join a team or have questions. You should also feel free to contact any of the other council members. Thank you for your prayerful consideration to this request.

Wishing you continued good health and God's Blessings,

Walt Ford  
Church Council President