

Worship in the in Home: Sunday, July 5, 2020

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Worship in the Home

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Lectionary 14 July 5, 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 Prayer of the Day may be prayed.

Let us 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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹Rejoice 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.

¹⁰The king 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.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full^l of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in^l steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are^l good to all,
and your compassion is over^l all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise^l you, O LORD,
and your faithful^l ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory^l of your kingdom
and speak^l of your power,

¹²that all people may know^l of your power
and the glorious splendor^l of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-^l out all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in^l all your works.

¹⁴The LORD upholds all^l those who fall
and lifts up those who^l are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my physical body another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my body. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the 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 wise deeds."

²⁵At 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; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All 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 the Father.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Having read these readings, think of this:

There are images for our times and an image for ourselves in the first two readings today. “War horses,” “battle bows,” and “waterless pits for prisoners” may be archaic, but they can stand for the very real violent conflict in our world today and for our own sense of current imprisonment. And with Paul, we too are not able to do the good we wish we could do. Who will deliver us? Thanks be to God, indeed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For us, Jesus is the humble one who by the cross brings hope, release, and peace. Jesus welcomes us sinners. Even if we are not wise, Jesus shows us who God is. And Jesus gives us rest. By the power of the Spirit, baptism into Christ draws us into learning from him and carrying his yoke: we, too, will seek to **live** out of peace and give rest to our neighbors.

If you have a hymnal (or using the graphic below), you might now sing or read “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 611) or “Day by Day.” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 790)

[I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say \(KINGSFOLD\)](#)

[Day by Day](#)

*Whether alone or with a small group, let us join together to pray to God, our stronghold, for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with the phrase **“in mercy, receive our prayer.”***

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the globe. Where Christians are assembling for worship, protect them from viral infection. Where Christians are worshipping with print and screen, grant them steadfastness in your word. Strengthen those believers who doubt your goodness. Bless pastors, deacons, and committee members as they serve our congregations in this difficult time.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Grant renewal to the air, the waters, and the lands. Save the animals whose natural habitat is threatened by climate change or human carelessness, and direct us toward sustainable living. Preserve the fields of Kenya from locusts. Nourish our country’s green spaces.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Keep the world from war. Pave the way for just elections. Protect citizens from the designs of autocratic rulers. Uphold our courts. Guide our national and state governments in finding ways to redress the wrongs of racism and to ensure equality for all.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and suffering. Console the fearful, feed the hungry, house the homeless, shelter the run-aways. Heal the many who are newly afflicted with the coronavirus, and guide researchers in discovering a vaccine. Visit the sick whom we name here:

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for infants and young children, that they be carefully tended. We pray for teens, that they keep patience throughout the contagion. We pray for school boards, that they find solutions for the fall semester. We pray for the unemployed, that they find jobs. We pray for medical workers, that they remain healthy. We pray for the aged, especially those in care facilities, that they find companionship in your presence.

A brief silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray finally for ourselves. Show us that the yoke of faith is easy; may we find our rest in you. Hear now our private petitions.

A longer time of silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially the martyr Jan Hus and the monk Benedict of Nursia. Comfort all who mourn their dead, and at the end, bring us and all your people into your eternal rest.

A time of silence.

O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, for the sake of him who bore the heavy yoke for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.**

If you have a hymnal (or using the graphic below), you might now sing or read "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 697) or "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart." (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 873)

[Just a Closer Walk with Thee](#)

[Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! \(MARION\)](#)

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into the darkness, called forth **beauty** from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:

freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:

forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

[Send your](#) Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of the world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; 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: ["What a Friend We Have in Jesus"](#); ["O God of Light"](#); ["Lord We Praise You."](#)

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415) Psalm 131. **Tuesday** Jeremiah 28:10-17. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 13:1-11. **Thursday** Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13. **Friday** Romans 15:14-21. **Saturday** (commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540) Isaiah 52:1-6. **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931) Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Daily Prayer Resources 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

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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), Cal Curtis & Patty Thompson (Carole Holten's Son-in-Law & Sister), Bill Warner, David Warner, Emily (Ben & Casey's Daughter), Terry Newgard.