



**The Third Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word
June 21, 2020**

Gathering

LAMENTING THE GRIP OF MELANCHOLY

With Job of old we cry out:
Everywhere the innocent suffer.
Our desires and efforts achieve us little.
O God, are you good, yet do nothing to help us?
Our answers have holes, and we fall through.

Hear us, O God:
Hear us, O God.

Revive us with hope:
Revive us with hope.

Give us your life:
Give us your life.

A time of silence is kept.

Hear these words, and receive their power:
The majesty of God the Father undergirds all that is.
The mercy of God the Son accepts our despair.
The comfort of God the Spirit embraces us in communities of care.

Thanks be to God:
Thanks be to God.

GATHERING SONG – *Praise to the living God*

1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
 2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
 3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will:
 4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same.
 ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
 in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.
 his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:
 Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
 Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!
 and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.
 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered 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 him,
or speak any more in his name,"
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 he 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 he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 69:7-18 (Read responsively by whole verse)

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰**I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹¹I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.

¹²**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³But as for me, this is my prayer to you, O LORD:
"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴**Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

¹⁶**Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸**Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

A reading from Romans.

^{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 him 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 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 his 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 him 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.

³⁴“Do 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 man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

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.

SERMON The Rev. James Hazelwood, Bishop, New England Synod

HYMN OF THE DAY – *My life flows on in endless song*

1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

- 3 What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. *Refrain*

- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long (*local environmental concerns may be prayed for*). Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world (*especially*). Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died (*especially Onesimos Nesib, translator and evangelist*), increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

PEACE

This may be preceded by the presiding minister and the assembly greeting each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

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.

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father...

Sending

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – *You are holy*

You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy,
you are wholeness,
you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to our God!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.