

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word
June 28, 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 – *Blessed be the God of Israel*



Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

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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

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.

Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

⁵The 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; ⁶and 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. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 (Recited responsively, by whole verse.)

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”**

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout!

They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

¹⁶**They rejoice daily in your name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸**Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;
our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

A reading from letter of Paul to the church in Rome.

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

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do 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? ¹⁷But 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, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural

limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever 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; ⁴²and 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.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Where cross the crowded ways of life*



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on sha - dowed
 3 The cup of wa - ter given for thee still holds the
 4 O Mas - ter, from the moun - tain side, make haste to
 5 till all the world shall learn thy love, and fol - low

1 cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 2 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 3 fresh - ness of thy grace; yet long these mul - ti -
 4 heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less
 5 where thy feet have trod; till glo - rious from thy

1 self - ish strife, we hear thy voice, O Son of Man.
 2 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of thy tears.
 3 tudes to see the true com - pas - sion of thy face.
 4 throngs a - bide, O tread the ci - ty's streets a - gain;
 5 heaven a - bove, shall come the ci - ty of our God.

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.

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned (*especially*). Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died (*especially Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon*). Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. 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 – *O God of every nation*

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery, race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that we may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and na - tion and blind-ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray!
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.