

Family Worship for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – July 5, 2020

Leader / Response

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** (*Ps 124:8*)

If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you?

But with you is forgiveness; therefore, you are adored. (*Ps130:3-4*)

As we gather to hear God's Word, let us open our hearts to God and confess our sins, trusting in his infinite mercy for forgiveness and asking for his Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

Almighty God, have mercy on me, hear this my confession, forgive all my sins, and renew me by your Holy Spirit for right living. (*Silent confession*)

In Holy Baptism our merciful God has declared us to be his royal children and forgives our sins for Jesus' sake, our risen Savior and Lord. Give praise now to the Lord of heaven and earth and live joyfully as his witnesses in the world. **Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 145:1-14

¹ I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴ **One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶ **They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.**

⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹ The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

¹⁰ **All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!**

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

¹² **to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

¹⁴ **The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.**

HYMN [My Country, 'Tis of Thee](#) (*with Lyrics*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our defender, storms rage about us and within us and cause us to be afraid. **Rescue your people from despair, deliver yours daughters and sons from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

FIRST READING – Zechariah 9:9-12

SECOND READING – Romans 7:14-25a

GOSPEL VERSE (*Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can*)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 11. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 11:25-30

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Day By Day](#) *(with Lyrics)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING PRESENTATION *(Spoken; LBW #433, st. 1, 5)*

The Church of Christ, in ev'ry age Beset by change, but Spirit led,

Must claim and test its heritage And keep on rising from the dead.

We have no mission but to serve In full obedience to our Lord;

To care for all, without reserve, And spread his liberating Word.

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING *(Romans 15:13)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN [How Great Thou Art](#) *(with Lyrics)*

EXTRA

[Fill the Tank](#)

[US Marine Silent Drill Platoon](#) *(They all started their careers as Acolytes 🙏)*

READINGS

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Second Reading: Romans 7:14-25a

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All 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 him. ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

PRAYERS

Gracious Father, we ask for your help and guidance every day of our life and we offer ourselves to your service as stewards of grace and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious Father, as you sent your son to be King in Israel, so we ask that by your Spirit he would always be Lord of our lives. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Gracious Father, when we struggle in our inner self to be obedient and faithful servants, helps us overcome our flesh by fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our pray, O God, for our country and its leaders, that we may find a common path for all citizens to enjoy the bounty of this nation in bonds of love and cords of justice. Preserve to us the forms of government that allow freedom to flourish. Let not the enemies of this nation subvert it from within or conquer it from without. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for those still sickened by the Coronavirus, and for all medical personnel, that their strength may renewed by your divine power and their lives spared from death. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for our police, firefighters, military and all public servants whose lives are endangered by their service. Keep them safe in these times of trouble. We pray especially for Kenny and Warren; Trent, Christopher, Ryland, Michael and Stephen. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for our school administrators as they work hard to get our schools ready for a new year. Give us all wisdom and courage to move forward in new directions as we adapt to the pandemic in our land. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for those who are in mourning, who feel the sting of death, who ache in their souls over loved ones lost. Bring divine comfort and healing to them as they pour out their pain to you. Send them the comfort of your love through the indwelling of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer, most kind and gracious Father for those whose needs are known to us: (Silent prayers) Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we have prayed, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers for July 5, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Ann Reiser, undergoing cancer treatments (M. Reiser, 6.28)
Rick Boyd, multiple health problems (C. Boyd, 6.21.2020)
Don Hasty undergoing cancer treatments (D. Vorel, 6.18.2020)
Pam Moore, surgery after a bad fall (B. Helmly, 6.13.2020)
Hiland & Rye, life problems (R. Stephenson, 6.7.2020)
Mary Jane Duff, hospitalized for heart problems (K. Hall, 6.7.2020)
Thomas Owens, hospitalized St. Joes (C. Garner, 6.1.2020)
Greg Hall, hospitalized in Charleston (J. Hall, 5.31.20)
Robie Hester, recovering from bypass surgery (M. Reiser, 5.31.20)
Amy Holcomb, health (S. Hobbs, 5.31.20)
Charles DiSalvo, hospitalized at Memorial. (K. Disalvo, 5.31.20)
Eddie Helmey, Covid-19 diagnosis (G. Helmey & A. Lowe, 5.24)
Darius Prescott, Cutter & Cassie, recovering from auto accident (5.17.2020)
Jason Pridgen, liver troubles, friend of Betty Robinson (5.17.2020)
JW Porter, multiple health problems, cousin of Brenda Dasher (5.17.2020)
Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall, 5.17)
Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls, 5.17)
Marcus Zeigler: cancer (son of David & Connie Z, 3.17.2020)
Clyde Johnson, pneumonia (Father of Natalie M, 5.10)
Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Bobby Exley and family on death of daughter, Teresa (J. Arnsdorff, 6.7.2020)
Stacey York and family upon death of her mother Annette (A. Terry, 6.6.2020)
Family of Franklin Davis killed in vehicle accident on Zittrouer Rd (S. White, 5.17.2020)
Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)
Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton
Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home)

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

“At that time Jesus declared, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.’” - Matthew 11:25-26

Has anyone ever asked you when you were saved? This question can be dangerous since it sometimes causes Christians to doubt their faith. Moreover, as Lutherans, we may struggle to answer this question since it arises from a different theological framework. Therefore, we will approach this question by questioning the framework behind it.

In this regard, many evangelical Christians hold that everyone can understand God’s truth. What saves us is making a decision to accept it. But Lutherans understand salvation differently. We believe that no amount of wisdom and understanding will allow us to know the hidden things of God until he first reveals them to us. He must first save us before we can know these truths.

Within a Lutheran framework, what saves us is not our decision for God, but God’s decision for us. Even the faith by which we believe is a gift of God’s grace. Our decision for Christ is but the response of a newly saved person to God’s grace. Thus, it is not that we must make a decision for Christ in order to be born again. Rather, we must be born again to make a decision for Christ.

In Scripture, God’s work of salvation unfolds in a couple of ways. Paul was clearly an adult convert. People like him can name the day and the hour of their conversion. However, John the Baptist was born again from his mother’s womb. Like John the Baptist, those of us who were baptized as infants cannot remember our conversion. We experience spiritual growth over time but cannot recall its starting point.

What both of these cases share in common is the priority of God’s grace in salvation. By grace God overcame the hardness of Paul’s heart, and by grace he gave John the Baptist a soft heart even before birth. How ever we are saved, therefore, our decision for God is always a response to his saving grace. And for Lutherans this decision occurs daily as we return to our baptism in repentance.

Fill the Tank (of Compassion) - Pastor Dave

The compassion of Jesus for a lost and dying world compelled him to go to the cross to confront and defeat the powers of sin, death and the devil. It was compassion that he felt toward the harassed crowds of Israel during his earthly ministry (Mt. 9:35-38) and for which he asked that the church pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers to go into the field. As we look ahead this year to engaging the harvest fields of Effingham, here are four suggestions to help us begin filling our tanks with Christ’s compassion.

- 1) Set an alarm for 12noon on your phone/watch. Say a short prayer asking for God to fill you with divine compassion and to send laborers into the harvest.
- 2) For those who like to blog/write/express themselves, please feel free to write out prayer petitions around the harvest/compassion theme and mail them to blc.rincon@gmail.com. Pastor will use them on Sundays during the Prayers of the Church.
- 3) Evangelism Committee will be running a children’s Art Contest, kicking off on Sunday School Promotion Sunday, August 9. Details to follow...
- 4) Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring a congregational Prayer Vigil before we gather for our congregational planning meeting on Sept. 19. Details to follow...

One Generation to Another

Find the 38 **bold** words from Psalm 119:153-160 (ESV).

M N E M O S E W A F Y R O L G
E W O R K S R B P O W E R G N
D M O I K C U E X R G I L N W
I L A N T N R M F T G O P M O
T S A F D A E T S H R S D A N
A H T A L R R R T I S E W J K
T Q N C C O O E O E E F M E O
E T E I A B O U N D I N G S N
R D F L G U S T S E N D S T S
B U O Z S G A L A N G E R Y W
L V O N M E R C Y F N J L O O
E M E P R C H I L D R E N P L
S S Q G R A C I O U S I N G S
S A I N T S C O M M E N D J H
Z N Q K I N G D O M I G H T Y

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall **declare your mighty acts**. On the **glorious splendor of your majesty**, and on your **wondrous works**, I will **meditate**.

They shall speak of the **might of your awesome deeds**, and I will declare your **greatness**. They shall **pour forth** the fame of your **abundant goodness** and shall sing aloud of your **righteousness**.

The LORD is **gracious and merciful**, **slow to anger** and **abounding in steadfast love**. The LORD is good to all, and his **mercy** is over all that he has made. All your works shall give **thanks to you**, O LORD, and all your **saints shall bless you!** They shall speak of the **glory of your kingdom** and tell of your **power**, to make **known to the children of man your mighty deeds**, and the **glorious splendor of your kingdom**.

Rest for Your Souls

Find the 38 **bold** words from Matthew 11:25-30 (ESV)

N H T O H U N F A T H E R D S
E E H V I N D D E L A E V E R U
D A G E D D N Q R Y W C S S O
A R I R D E I C L D L I E Z I
L T L H E R F I R A L S L K C
E M O C N S T T R H O I N L A
J E S U S T T E P O E O H N R
H V H O L A D H H E W A E C G
E I V E N N Z C A S C D V N V
A G E D E D N A H N R X R E S
R O B A L I Y Y P U K A E M N
T O I D T N O V B H E T A K E
H E R S N G W H A L O W L Y K
B O E P E W I S E E S L U O S
L R D A G E K O Y U H E A S Y

At that time **Jesus declared**, "I thank you, **Father, Lord of heaven and earth**, that you have **hidden** these things from the **wise and understanding** and revealed them to **little children**; yes, **Father**, for such was your **gracious will**. All 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 him. **Come to me**, all who **labor** and are **heavy laden**, and I will **give you rest**. **Take my yoke** upon you, and **learn** from me, for I am **gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will **find rest** for your souls. For my **yoke is easy**, and my **burden is light**."