

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020

The liturgy we are using today is from the New Zealand Prayer Book, a Sister member of the Anglican Communion

Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Voluntary *Solace* composed by Scott Joplin, played by Joshua Rifkin

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *I know the Lord laid his hands on me* arranged by Moses Hogan

Refrain:

Oh, I know the Lord, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.
Oh, I know the Lord, I know the Lord,
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.

1. Did ever you see the like before?
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
King Jesus preaching to the poor!
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.
(Refrain)

2. Oh, wasn't that a happy day
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
when Jesus washed my sins away!
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.
(Refrain)

3. ___ My Lord's done just what he said;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me;
he's healed the sick and raised the dead;
I know the Lord's laid his hands on me.
(Refrain)

Forgiveness

The congregation kneels.

The minister then says

We come seeking forgiveness
For all we have failed to be and do

As members of Christ's body.

Silence

In God there is forgiveness.

All say

**Loving and all-seeing God,
forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us where we have failed to serve you;
and where our thoughts and actions have been
contrary to yours we ask your pardon.**

The Presiding priest says

God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence

Rejoice and be glad, for Christ is resurrection,
Reconciliation for all the human race.

All say

**We shall all be one in Christ,
One in our life together.
Praise to God who has created us,
Praise to God who has accepted us,
Praise to God who sends us into the world.**

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people:

Christ be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Lesson

The first lesson is from the book of Exodus 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 103: (1-7), 8-13

Said in unison

- 1 [Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.]
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

Second Lesson

A reading from the book of Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem *I got a home in-a-dat rock* performed by the Fisk Jubilee Singers

I got a home in-a dat rock, Don't you see?
I got a home in-a dat rock, Don't you see?
Between de earth and sky, thought I heard my Saviour cry,
You got a home in-a dat rock, Don't you see?

Poor man Lazrus, poor as I, Don't you see?
Poor man Lazrus, poor as I, Don't you see?
Poor man Lazrus, poor as I, When he died he foun' a home on high,
He had a home in-a dat rock, Don't you see?

Rich man Dives, he lived so well, Don't you see?
Rich man Dives, he lived so well, Don't you see?
Rich man Dives, he lived so well, when he died he foun' a home in Hell,
He had no home in-a dat rock, Don't you see?

God gave Noah de rainbow sign, Don't you see?
God gave Noah de rainbow sign, Don't you see?
God gave Noah de rainbow sign, no more water but fire nex' time,
Better get a home in-a dat rock, Don't you see?

The Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

The Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave

fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
People: **Praise and glory to God.**

After the Gospel, the Reader says:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to Christ, the Word.**

Sermon

The Prayers of the People

Deacon or other leader

Knowing that God hears our prayers when they are made in sincerity and humility, we now pray for our church, the world and each other, saying 'Hear our Prayer'.

For the unity of the church in the world as it bears witness to the call of God, and equips us for ministry remembering especially the annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota as lay and clergy gather to renew friendships and do the business of the church. We pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

Because we live in unsettled and trying times, we pray that our world may not continue in strife, but discern what is truly good and just, embracing equality and peacefulness, we pray to you, O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for all political leaders that even as they are faced with so many heavy choices and decisions, that we may find in each of them examples of generous service and self-forgetfulness, rather than divisiveness, we pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

Because there are so many poor and hungry people right here in our own community, we pray that we may be generous in giving, compassionate in serving, and sensitive in understanding the needs of others, we pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer***

For everyone affected by the Covid-19 virus, let us prayerfully remember those who are heavily involved: medical personnel, care center workers, scientists, and everyone who is working to overcome this illness, we pray to you, O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

For all of us, as we try to follow the rules set up to keep us healthy, hearing the words of our Bishop, our Governor and the scientists. Help us to understand and care about each other's welfare, not just our own. We pray to you O God, ***Hear our prayer.***

In the face of unrest, anger, killings and protests that are prevalent now in our country, help us to open our hearts and our minds, to people of color. Help us to really hear and understand their lives, so that compassion and love might lead the way to peace. We pray to you, O God, *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all law enforcement officers, that they may be able to see the need for compassion and understanding as they work to protect and serve all people in the face of turmoil in our nation. We pray to you O God. *Hear our prayer.*

It seems that there is so much happening in the world, as well as in our own lives, that we ask you, O God, to give us not just the eyes to see, but also the voices to speak out. Help us to stand up for justice and equality. Let us not be discouraged because we know that you can accomplish in us infinitely more than we can possibly imagine. This we pray to you O God. *Hear our prayer.*

Because there are people and situations we hold dear in our hearts, please take a moment to remember them, either silently or aloud. *Hear our prayer.*

We pray also for those who have died, including those whose death was from this pandemic. Help us to remember that they are indeed now sharing in that heavenly banquet at your holy table with all of your saints, we pray to you O God, *Hear our prayer.*

(Silence)

The priest adds a concluding prayer.

The Celebrant says

Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours,
God of the incarnation;
Because you have compassion for us and hear our prayer.
May our love for you and our likeness to you
Be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

Announcements and Blessings and healing prayer.

Priest or Deacons says

As Christ teaches us we pray:

People and Celebrant

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Officiant and People

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Officiant continues

In union, O Lord, with faithful eucharistic people throughout the world, we offer you our thanks and praise. We present to you our souls and bodies, earnestly desiring that we may always be united with you. You promise, O Christ, to be present with us in the sacrament of your body and blood, so with confidence we claim your presence among us during this eucharistic fast. We trust you are always with us; unite us with you and one another. May your healing grace abound. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you and you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Concluding Prayer:

Blessed be God who calls us together.

Praise to God who makes us one people.

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

Praise to God who is revealed as love.

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Amen.

Blessing

Deacon concludes with the following

Dismissal

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

People: We go in the name of Christ. Amen.

Please stay after the service for virtual coffee hour!