

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 12, 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

Voluntary *Shalom Aleykhem* traditional melody played by Itzhak Perlman, violin, and the Andy Statman Klezmer Orchestra

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Welcome, People of God, as we gather, for you are Christ's body, Christ' work in the world.

Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world.

Rejoice and be glad.

Praise God who gives us forgiveness and hope. Amen

People **Christ is our light, the joy of our salvation.**

Hymn of Praise H 536 *Torah Song: The Law is our Light*

Sung by the Congregation, Doane College Women's Chorale and Women of the
Plymouth Choir, First Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.

Refrain: God has spoken to the people, Hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, Hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah!

They who have ears to hear this message,
they who have ears, then let them hear.
They who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear Gods word.

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 Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; 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

A reading from the book of Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 65:9-14

Said in unison

**9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.**

**10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.**

**11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

**12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

**13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

**14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.**

Second Lesson

A reading from the book of Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that

is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem *The First Song of Isaiah* setting by Jack Noble White

Performed by the Children's Choir and the Sanctuary Choir of Stonebriar Community Church, Frisco TX.

Refrain: Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; (*Refrain*)

Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his Name is exalted. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. (*Refrain*)

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. (*Refrain*)

The Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

People: **Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

God calls us today to be open to the word and to one another. Let us open ourselves to all the world in prayer, saying “*God have mercy*”.

For the church we pray. That we may bring God’s word of life to all who live in silence, darkness and despair, let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For our leaders we pray. For Michael our presiding bishop, for Craig our bishop, for Letha our priest, Barbara our deacon, and Vicki our postulant. For all leaders, lay and ordained, let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For the world we pray. That nations, people, ideas and differences can come together to discuss and cooperate for the health and well-being of everyone, with peace being the ultimate goal let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For everyone affected by the Covid-19 virus, especially as we begin to plan for a safe reopening, let us thoughtfully remember first responders, medical personnel, the unemployed, those who are ill, or are in hospital, on ventilators, for those in care centers, and those most at risk, let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For all of us, as we try to follow the rules set up to keep us healthy. You know we are having a hard time sticking to the rules and guidelines set up by our Bishop, our Governor, and the CDC. Give us patience with ourselves and others as we try to learn to live with this new normal, let us pray, *God have mercy*.

Help us to remember to do the work that Jesus would have us do – to not forget those in need, remembering the homeless, the sick, the suffering, the grieving and all who are in trouble, let us pray *God have mercy*.

For this, our congregation we pray. That we may grow to recognize our differences and uncertainties and confusion as we try to live into Your Beloved Community. Help us to grow into the mystery of your abundant life among and in us, let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For our community of Red Wing, help us to nourish and feed each other in celebration of the diversity and differences that make each person so special let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For those who are suffering we pray. That we may be instrumental in alleviating their pain, their hunger, their sickness and their hopelessness. Let us pray, *God have mercy*.

For those who have died we pray. That they may find that your promises have been realized in your eternal kingdom. Let us pray, *God have mercy*.

The Celebrant says

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

The Peace

Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace
who breaks down the walls that divide.

The peace of God be always with you.
Praise to Christ who unites us in peace.

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. Come into our hearts and 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.

People 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.