

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 20

Our Thoughts are not God's Thoughts

September 20, 2020

AS WE GATHER

In our prayers we often want God to think and act in a way that agrees with us and are disappointed when things do not work out the way we think they should. In today's readings we are reminded, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8) Today we look at how we know the thoughts and ways of God.

GATHERING SONG

"Good Good Father"

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think you're like
But I've heard the tender whispers of love in the dead of night
And you tell me that you're pleased
And that I'm never alone

You're a good good father
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching
For answers only you provide
'Cause you know just what we need
Before we say a word

You're a good good father
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Because you are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways
You are perfect in all of your ways to us

Oh, it's love so undeniable
I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable
I, I can hardly think

As you call me deeper still
As you call me deeper still
As you call me deeper still
Into love, love, love

You're a good good father
It's who you are, it's who you are, it's who you are
And I'm loved by you
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am
Repeat

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.**

Pastor: Is this your sincere confession?

People: **I am sorry for all my sins, and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:6-9;

“Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One

Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross

My sin upon His shoulders

Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice

Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there

Until it was accomplished

His dying breath has brought me life

I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything

No gifts, no power, no wisdom

But I will boast in Jesus Christ

His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer

But this I know with all my heart

His wounds have paid my ransom

SERMON

“Godly Thoughts”

CREED

Nicene Creed

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord God, You have promised to hear the prayers of Your people, and so we come to You this day offering You petitions and supplications for all manner and needs of people. You have invited us to seek Your face and to call upon You while You are near. Lord, grant to us such confidence in Your grace and favor that we seek Your wisdom, walk in Your ways, and delight in Your gift of salvation with thanksgiving in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We delight in dwelling in Your house, O Lord. Bless Your Church and those who minister to us in Your name. We pray especially during this time to guide us in seeking the new pastor who will lead us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You have placed in our ears Your Word and in our hearts Your Spirit, O Lord. Grant that we learn to follow Your Word and live holy, upright, and honorable lives that reflect Your goodness and show forth the fruit of the Spirit in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You are our light and our salvation and in You we rest our fears. Lord, grant Your aid, comfort, and strength to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Be especially with the sick for whom we pray this day, [especially . . .]. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Your power is greater than all and Your mercy is without limit. Lord, look with compassion upon our world of violence and terror. Bless those who govern here and everywhere that they protect the weak, promote the cause of virtue, administer justice to the criminal, and act with mercy toward those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You have given us a place at Your Son's Table and grace to receive His very body and blood. Lord, grant that we come with repentance and faith to receive all that Christ has accomplished for our salvation in this blessed communion with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You have shown us generosity greater than we deserve, O Lord. We pray for peace in our cities and on our streets. We also pray for treatments and vaccines which will bring an end to this pandemic. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these and whatsoever other things we need, we ask You to grant us in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Into Your hands, O gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

"White as Snow" & "We Fall Down"

White as snow, white as snow, thought my sins were as scarlet,
Lord I know, Lord I know, that I'm clean and forgiven.
Through the power of Your blood, through the wonder of Your love,
through faith in you I know that I can be
white as snow.

We fall down
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of
Mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus

And we cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the lamb

We fall down
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of
Your mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus

And we cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the lamb

And we cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the lamb

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God, You satisfy the longing of our hearts with great mercy and bring us to the fullness of Your grace and favor. Wherever we have been or however long it has taken for us to hear and believe Your Word, teach us to rejoice that we are Yours and to rejoice over those who are still hearing and still believing in Christ through Your Church's proclamation. Sustain us through temptation, and deliver us from trouble that we be sustained in this faith to the day of Christ's return; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG

"Everlasting God"

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord

Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on the wings
Like eagles

Our God, You reign forever
Our hope, our Strong Deliverer
'Cause You are, You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on the wings
Like eagles