

MORNING MEDITATION

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Church is Made Up of All Nations



Christ Lutheran Church
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota
August 30, 2020

About the season... The Season of Pentecost - these Sundays after Pentecost Sunday - celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit as he brings to completion the work begun in us. As believers travel along with Jesus and the disciples through the Palestinian countryside, we look for the inner-working of the Spirit, longing for the passing of the old and the fullness of the new. These weeks lead up to the Season of End Times, looking ahead to the fulfillment of all that our Lord has promised. Just as Jesus traveled with his disciples toward the Holy City, we travel with them through this life to the New Jerusalem.

About the day... The Church is meant for all people. Today's lessons teach that the gift of grace given to Israel, God also intended to give through Israel to the world. The Church is meant for all people: a display of God's mercy and a result of the living and active Word of God. *God bless your worship!*

OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus, You Have Come
CW# 546:1-3



1 Lord Je - sus, you have come A teach - er sent from
2 O bless - ed min - is - try Of rec - on - cil - i -
3 Pre - serve this min - is - try While har - vest days are



heav - en And by both word and deed God's
a - tion, That shows the way to God And
keep - ing; And since the fields are ripe And



truth to us have giv - en. You wise - ly have or -
brings to us sal - va - tion! Lord, by your gos - pel
hands are few for reap - ing, Send work - ers forth, O



daind The ho - ly min - is - try That we, your
pure, You bless and keep your fold; You call, en -
Lord, The sheaves to gath - er in That not a



flock, may know The truth that sets us free.
light - en, keep; You com - fort and up - hold.
soul be lost Which you have come to win.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

RESPONSES

M: In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice;

C: **in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.** *Psalm 5:3*

M: We do not make requests of you because we are righteous,

C: **but because of your great mercy.** *Daniel 9:18*

M: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;

C: **establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.** *Ps. 90:17*

M: Let me live that I may praise you,

C: **and may your laws sustain me.** *Psalm 119:175*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C: **we have sinned against you
in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver us and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.**

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.
Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun when we shall serve him in newness of life.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 2:8-21

*Joshua's spies hide in a house of prostitution run by a woman named Rahab.
Yet Rahab receives God's free grace and is incorporated into His family.*

⁸ Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof ⁹ and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. ¹⁰ We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.” ¹⁴ “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land.” ¹⁵ So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. ¹⁶ Now she had said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.” ¹⁷ The men said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us ¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. ¹⁹ If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible. As for anyone who is in the house with you, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. ²⁰ But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.” ²¹ “Agreed,” she replied. “Let it be as you say.” So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 56:1:6-8

*The prophet sees the inclusion of all nations into God's house of prayer, the Church.
The women Jesus speaks to in today's gospel is a prime example of the fulfillment of these verses.*

This is what the LORD says: “Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” ⁸The Sovereign LORD declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

GOSPEL

St. Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus finds great faith in a woman who lives outside the borders of Israel and not a member of the chosen nation of Israel. She stands as an example of God's mercy intended for all.

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” ²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” ²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. ²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” ²⁷ “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN

Amazing Grace
CW #379



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures. He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and por - tion be
grace has brought me safe - thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.
As long as life en - dures.
And grace will lead me home.
Than when we'd first be - gun.

MESSAGE Isaiah 56:1; 6-8

My Salvation Is Close At Hand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Christian Church - the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING *(will be received as you leave)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) The start of another school year reminds us of this exhortation from you, dear Lord. Help us to realize the importance of the education and the training of children. We ask you to bless all those who labor in the schools around our nation, especially under uncertain and even trying circumstances this year. Bless both our Christian schools and the public schools. Prosper the educational efforts of parents and congregations and grant that the rising generation may not only grow in secular wisdom but also grow in knowledge of you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

C: 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.

INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS Mrs. Stefanie Hill - Preschool Coordinator, Cornerstone
Mrs. Lynette Olson—PreK, NSP campus

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Christ, High Ascended
CW#558:1,3,4



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed,
2 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion,
3 Christ in his splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing,



Throned and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed,
Lives now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion;
Christ with his peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing,



Death's dread do - min - ion fi - nal - ly de -
To win dis - ci - ples out of ev - 'ry
Christ to all a - ges, glo - ri - ous - ly



feat - ed— We are his wit - ness - es.
na - tion, We are his wit - ness - es.
reign - ing— We are his wit - ness - es.

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