



June 28, 2020 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: **"Sweet Hour of Prayer"** Blue Hymnal p. 640
(Freedom's Call #10 featuring 2 of the Haugstul's granddaughters, Katelyn & Eliza Tingelstad.)

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation: Psalm 100:2

"Serve the Lord with gladness. Enter into His presence with singing."

Call to Worship: **"All Creatures of Our God and King"** p. 527 Green Hymnal
(FLBC Choirs #2 featuring Julia Albright, choir member)

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (brief silence)

Most merciful God

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

Absolution: Words of Comfort & Forgiveness

Hymn of Thanksgiving: **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"** Green Hymnal p. 543
(FLBC Choirs #1 featuring Julia Albright, choir member)

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 89 Please read responsively without explanations in parentheses.

(In this psalm, God's love and faithfulness is celebrated. Jubilation turns to lament as the Chosen break their covenant with God. The author, likely a Levite, voices an agonizing prayer for the nation as God's anger is expressed, followed by His gracious restoration and protection. Even when King David is unfaithful, God is faithful to His promises.)

L: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.

C: I will declare that Your love stands firm forever, that You have established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.

L: You said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one, I have sworn to David My servant,

C: 'I will establish Your line forever and make Your throne firm through all generations.'"

L: The heavens praise Your wonders, LORD, Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

C: For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings?

L: In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; *(Joy turns to lament)* He is more awesome than all who surround Him.

C: Who is like You, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and Your faithfulness surrounds You.

L: You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, You still them.

C: You crushed Rahab *(another name for Leviathan, mythical monster of the deep)* **like one of the slain; with Your strong arm You scattered Your enemies.** *(quoted in Luke 1:51)*

L: The heavens are Yours, and Yours also the earth; You founded the world and all that is in it.

C: You created the north and the south; Tabor and Hermon *(mountains referencing the north and the south extents of the land)* **sing for joy at Your name.**

L: Your arm is endowed with power; Your hand is strong, Your right hand exalted.

C: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; love and faithfulness go before You.

L: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence, LORD.

C: They rejoice in Your name all day long; they celebrate Your righteousness.

L: For You are their glory and strength, and by Your favor You exalt our horn. *(Horn refers to strength)*

C: Indeed, our shield *(the shield is the faithfulness of God and the joy of the people protected by Him)* **belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

L: Once You spoke in a vision, to Your faithful people You said:

C: "I have bestowed strength on a warrior; I have raised up a young man from among the people.

L: I have found David My servant; with My sacred oil I have anointed him.

C: My hand will sustain him; surely My arm will strengthen him.

L: The enemy will not get the better of him; the wicked will not oppress him.

C: I will crush his foes before him and strike down his adversaries.

L: My faithful love will be with him, and through My name his horn *(strength)* will be exalted.

C: I will set his hand over the sea, (*David's rule will be from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River, Exodus 23:31. David's rule will reflect God's. Compare with Ps. 72:8, 80:11*) **his right hand over the rivers.**

L: You (*the chosen child of God*) will call out to Me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'

Prayer of the Day: **O Lord, without us knowing it, You direct our lives. Your words of justice, compassion and mercy reshape our world. Mold us into a people who welcome Your refreshing Word and respond by serving one another. Give us Your grace to stand firmly together in that which unites us, our shared faith in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church:

Strengthened by His forgiving Spirit who gives us gracious words to speak with hearts that care for our neighbor, let us bring our needs to our God who listens and, in His perfect time, answers us.

O God, daily we pray for You to hasten to help us and save us from the global pandemic. We thank You and praise You that You have kept us in Your mercy, filling our needs, protecting us. To You we give honor, thanks and heart-felt praise.

Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Precious Savior, pour out Your Holy Spirit on those of us who benefit from Your mercies, that we will have Your words to speak, Your heart for justice, the desire to serve You with compassion for our neighbors, and tell of Your work in our lives.

Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace stir in our hearts compassion for those who need justice, ways to bring peace, to stop oppression and preserve human dignity. Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

God of the faithful, make families laces of safety, nurturing and love. Protect and uphold healthy relationships in our families and our community, especially between our church families; between spouses, parents, and children, friends and neighbors, especially today we remember the families of Neal & Kathy Schmidt, Mark & Jolene Schmitz, Karen Schultz, Tom & Marcy Sedler, Patrick & Lisa Sekely. Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Healer of our every ill, wherever there is brokenness, bring healing. Bind up our wounds, dry our tears, (especially...) Give them comfort, reconciliation, and hope. Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all wisdom and knowledge, thank You for those who through their words and deeds have passed on the faith from one generation to the next. Lord in Your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, we lift our prayers to You, confident that all things are in Your hands. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn in Preparation to Hear the Word: "**What a Friend We Have in Jesus**" Green Hymnal p. 439 (100 Best Loved Hymns)

First Lesson: Job 31:35-37; 38:1-11 [25-27]

(Job ends his speeches with a long oath of innocence and calls on God to answer him. After some speeches by another "friend," Elihu, God does indeed answer Job. God shows up takes Job on a whirlwind tour of the cosmos, displaying creation in all its wildness and beauty. In these God-speeches, humans are hardly mentioned, and are not the center of creation (38:25-27; 40:15). God takes delight in creatures and places over which humans have no control, the seas, wild animals, and Leviathan, as having value unrelated to their usefulness to humans. This idea is foreign to our way of thought today. "His ways are not our ways". God's world is not allowed to descend into chaos, but neither does God rigidly control it or us. God gives His creatures freedom to be who they were created to be, and that freedom is a great gift to human and animal alike. Consequently, the world is not entirely safe place for humans, but it is a world of order and of beauty, and our Creator delights in it. God does not address Job's suffering directly, but in this vision of creation, Job's vision is expanded. He is invited to take his eyes off himself and his suffering, and to see the world around him. He is invited back into life again after great suffering, and in the last chapter of the book, he accepts that invitation.

31:35 O that I had one to hear me! (Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!) O, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

³⁶ Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it on me like a crown; ³⁷ I would give him an account of all my steps; like a prince I would approach him.

38:1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?"

³ Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴ Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸ Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? — ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, ¹⁰ and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, ¹¹ and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?'"

[²⁵ Who has cut a channel for the torrents of rain, and a way for the thunderbolt, ²⁶ to bring rain on a land where no one lives, on the desert, which is empty of human life, ²⁷ to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground put forth grass?]

Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³ No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path” (Hymns 4 Worship #2)

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my lath” (Hymns 4 Worship #2)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Post-sermon Hymn: **“I Love to Tell the Story”** Green Hymnal p. 390 (100 Best Loved Hymns)

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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

P: The peace of the Lord be with you,

C: and also with you.

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

Benediction

P: Jesus is alive!

C: And that makes all the difference.

Hymn of Praise & Thanksgiving to close: **“Lord I Want to Be a Christian”**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Postlude: **“Be Thou My Vision”** Blue Hymnal p. 562

(Freedom's Call #10 featuring 2 of the Haugstul's granddaughters, Katelyn & Eliza Tingelstad)

