

Sunday, August 27, 2017
12th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

PRELUDE

"Foundation"

Wilbur Held

***GATHERING SONG**

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

ELW 685

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

***GREETING**

P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

G **And also with you.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“Beautiful Savior” vv. 1 & 3

ELW 838

**Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair is the sunshine,
fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *O God,*

G **with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Because He Lives”

Gaither

Dave Newman, tenor

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reflection

In this text, Isaiah describes the mission of God. As the people of God, people who “pursue righteousness,” we seek out our source. Where do we come from? What is “the rock from which you were hewn”? I come from Ried and Eunice, and that tells you something about who I am. But even more, I come from a long line of people of faith. All the way back to Abraham and Sarah! (verses 1-2) What does that tell us about who we are? What is the Lord’s promise to us? (verse 3) What does it mean to “pursue righteousness”? God will teach us! (verse 4) What is this teaching? (verses 4-5) It is not just for here and now (although it is for here and now!). We all know that the end is coming—if not the end of the world, the end for each of us. (verse 6) What gives us hope in such times as these?

PSALM 138

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.
²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**
³When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.
⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**
⁵They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.
⁶**The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**
⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand shall save me.

**⁸You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your
hands.**

Reflection

For what does the psalmist thank God? (verses 1-3) We (and the psalmist) join all the kings of the earth in praising God. (verse 4) What is their/our song of praise? (verse 5) What is the nature of God's being? (verse 6) The psalmist is part of the lowly. How does God regard the lowly? (verses 7-8) Have you ever experienced the saving help of God and God's steadfast love in the midst of trouble?

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by this age, but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reflection

How are we to live as those whom God loves? (verse 1) What is the basis of this way of life? (If you need to be reminded, go back to Romans 8, which describes what God has done for us.) How do we live as "a living sacrifice"? (verses 1-2) What do you think it means not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed"? How do we discern the will of God? (The Lutheran Bible reminds us that this is a communal activity, and not an individual one. The Greek pronoun is plural.) What do you experience the world telling you to do? How do you resist? What activities and people help to transform you? How do we go about this together? (verse 3) Note that each one of us has a "measure of faith" that God has given us to work together. I wonder if that doesn't mean that sometimes, when it is difficult to have faith for yourself, you can count on the faith of others to help you. I know I certainly have experienced that! What does it mean that we are "one body in Christ"? (verses 4-5) What gifts do you bring to the one body in Christ? (verses 6-8) It is useful to celebrate the gifts that we bring to the body; it is not helpful to compare ourselves to others. Each of us is unique, and we work together in sharing our unique gifts. How do you see that working out in our congregation?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION“With a Voice of Singing”*

With a voice of singing
 declare ye this,
 and let it be heard,
 Alleluia.

GOSPEL*Matthew 16:13-20**

At a climactic point in Jesus’ ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Reflection

Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples about who others say that he is? (verse 13) What did they answer? (verse 14) Note that everyone they say people think he is is someone who has died. He must be a resurrected person! What is his next question? (verse 15) Why is that question important? What is Simon Peter’s answer? (verse 16) How does Peter know this? (verse 17) How is Peter’s confession [his answer] the rock on which Jesus builds the church? How is what Peter says the rock of our belief? Peter certainly had trouble staying with that rock! (For example, see what happens next, in verses 21-23.) And yet, God can use this truth on which to build the church. Jesus gives the church a specific power. What is it? (verse 19) Can you think of a time when the church should withhold forgiveness of sins? Why is it important that the church (that is, the body of believers in Christ) has the power to forgive sins? How have you experienced receiving the benefit of that power in your life and faith?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON*“What’s In a Name?”*

Rev. Jim Pierce

SONG OF THE DAY*“My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”***ELW 596**

**My hope is built on nothing less
 than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
 no merit of my own I claim,
 but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

☑ I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen!

***PRAYER SONG**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our rock, provide a strong foundation for your church on earth. Unite it in joyful praise, service, and mission. We especially lift up the South Sudanese Congregation. Strengthen and sustain Pastor Philip, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people. Grant the South Sudanese Congregation passion, guided by the Holy Spirit, to follow in the way of your son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You make deserts into gardens and the wilderness into Eden. Restore the clean and pleasant beauty of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You shine the light of justice on the nations. Deliver us quickly from evil, protect the defenseless, and bring peace to warring lands. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You renew our minds and transform our bodies. Wait with all who seek a cure or long for relief from chronic pain. Bring comfort and healing to all who suffer illness in spirit, mind, or body *especially Dee, Lin, Robert, and Linda*. We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You give gifts to all. Build up this assembly. Increase our generosity, compassion, and cheerfulness. Lift up from among us prophets, ministers, teachers, and diligent leaders. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O God, we pray for all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your salvation lasts forever. Console us here on earth until we join all who praise you without end. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"

I will call upon the Lord
who is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Merciful God,*

C **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

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!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. Our Lord's body let us take together.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

G **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *We give you thanks, almighty God,*

G **that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope.*

Almighty God, Father, ~~F~~ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" vv. 1-3, 1

ELW 860

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.