

Sunday, July 2, 2017  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **INTRODUCTION**

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

## **\*GATHERING SONG**

***"This is My Song"***

**ELW 887**

**This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**

**My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.**

**This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,  
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.  
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;  
myself I give you; let your will be done.**

## **\*GREETING**

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

☞ **And also with you.**

## **\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** vv. 1 & 4

***"When Morning Gilds the Skies"***

**ELW 853**

**When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
this rings my curfew call:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all of humankind  
in this their concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**℟** *O God,*

**℣** **you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

**FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Through a symbolic action, Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon. Hananiah contradicted Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).*

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

**Reflection**

*This text is from Jeremiah's letter to the people who had been taken into exile to Babylon from Jerusalem. What they wanted to hear from the Lord was, "This is only temporary—you'll be back home soon." What was the message from the Lord that Jeremiah sent? (verses 5-7) What does the Lord say about the prophets who were telling them what they wanted to hear? (verses 8-9) As you think about this text, imagine that you are a refugee driven from your home by enemies, and you end up in a place you never wanted to be. —In this case, in the home of the enemy.— What would you imagine your dearest hope would be? How would you feel about the people you are living among? Have you ever found yourself among people you just didn't like and couldn't understand? What are the people Jeremiah is writing to supposed to do? (verse 7) As you reflect on your prayers, both the ones you pray in your heart, and the ones we pray together. How do we pray for people of various nations? How do we pray for people in our own country, perhaps especially those with whom we do not agree politically? One of the gifts I have experienced, long ago when we first moved to St. Joseph and then when we joined First Lutheran, is the care and concern of people we did not know. I have experienced, time and time again from you, God's love reflected back to me. And time and time again, as new people have joined us, I see God's love in their presence with us. Let us pray for the welfare of the congregation/city/state/nation/world in which we live, for in its welfare we will find our own welfare!*

**Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;  
 from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;  
 you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup><sup>4</sup>I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;  
 I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your | line forever,  
 and preserve your throne for all | generations.’ ”**

<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!  
 They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.

<sup>16</sup>**They rejoice daily | in your name;  
 they are jubilant | in your righteousness.**

<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory | of their strength,  
 and by your favor our might | is exalted.

<sup>18</sup>**Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;  
 our king to the Holy | One of Israel.**

### **Reflection**

*This is a psalm of praise to God for God’s covenant with David, and with the people of Israel. How long is that covenant to last? (verses 1-4) How do the people show their thankfulness to God? (verses 15-18) How are we Gentiles (who are not David’s descendants in the flesh) included in this psalm? How do you experience God’s faithful love? How do you show your thankfulness for this love?*

### **SECOND READING**

### **Romans 6:12-23**

*Sin is an enslaving power that motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin’s final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin’s slavery to live obediently under God’s grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>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? <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>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.

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

**Reflection**

*Paul’s argument in this text is that everyone is a slave to sin until they have been set free by God. What ways does sin rule our lives? (verse 13) As you reflect on this, in what ways have you personally experienced being enslaved by sin? (If you need suggestions to help you reflect, consider Colossians 3:5-9.) What has happened in our baptism? (verses 13-19) What is the end result of slavery to sin? (verses 20-21) What is the end result of being “slaves of righteousness”? (verses 22-23)*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Gospel Acclamation”**

**ELW 169**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.  
You have the words of eternal life. Repeat alleluia**

**\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>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; <sup>42</sup>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.”

**Reflection**

*In this text Jesus talks about his disciples and how they might be received by those they are sent among, and how we can receive those who come among us in Jesus’ name. How are we to receive those who come to us in the name of Jesus? (verse 40) It’s not always easy to receive prophets among us—sometimes (as in Jeremiah’s case) they say things we don’t necessarily want to hear. What do you think is the reward of a prophet, and the reward of a righteous person? (verse 41) How can we welcome those who come to us as disciples? (verse 42) What is the gift of “a cup of cold water”? How does this help us to be welcoming, not only to those who are like us, but also to those who may not initially be people we want among us? Think of those people you might have encountered—what is the gift that they have brought you from God?*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

**“Creating a Welcoming Heart”**

Rev. Roger Lenander

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Change My Heart, O God”**

**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.  
You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**

**\*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           *"Let My Prayer be a Fragrant Offering"***

**Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,  
as incense to you arise.  
Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,  
my hands lifted up in praise.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. For exiled Christians, oppressed churches, and all who suffer persecution because of faith in you: deliver freedom, courage, and partners in peacemaking. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and its creatures. For sage grouse, wolverines, and all vulnerable species; for humans and the choices we face: sustain life and guide our stewardship of all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the United States and Canada as we celebrate the founding of our nations. For the president and prime minister (*these leaders may be prayed for by name*); for the congress and parliament: grant wisdom and hearts for justice, that all our people flourish. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those in need. For those who seek jobs, shelter, food, health, and love; for dear ones known to us: meet their need by your bountiful compassion and our community's action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those in poor health and in need of your healing hand *especially Lin, Kathy, Roberta, Robert, Bob, Bill, Dorothy, Chester, Terry, Linda, and Alva. We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds)*. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who worship you today. For wise elders and curious seekers, joyful spirits and burdened souls: give holy welcome, share tender mercies, and deepen trust in your goodness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith and received the reward of the righteous. Bless their memory among us and their life with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**

#### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you!**

#### **OFFERTORY**

***"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord"***

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,**

**I will sing, I will sing.**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.**

**With my mouth will I make known**

**thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness.**

**With my mouth will I make known**

**thy faithfulness to all generations.**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing, I will sing.  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,  
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.**

**\*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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and  
by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so,  
with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of  
heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**C** **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**

**☩ Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen!**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

### **\*BLESSING**

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

**☩ Amen!**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**☩** *Jesus Christ, host of this meal,*

**☩ you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen!**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**☩** *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, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,*

*bless you now and forever.*

☞ **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG      "Baptized"**

***Chorus***

**Baptized into the death of Christ,  
Raised again to new life.  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
Raised again to new life.**

**Down, down, down I was sinking deep in sin;  
killing me, killing me from deep within.  
He put me to death that day  
and the fam'ly of God stood up to say: *Chorus***

**Down, down, down in the water, down I went;  
lifted up in a brand new covenant.  
They made a sign on my brow,  
and I'll do it again to remember now. 1-2-3 *Chorus***

**Sing, sing, sing to the ones who have not heard.  
We've been washed in the water and the Word.  
We'll sing it with every breath.  
We will share his life like we've shared his death. *Chorus***

**\*DISMISSAL**

☞ *Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.*

☞ **Thanks be to God!**