

Sunday, July 9, 2017  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

**PRELUDE**

**"Toccata In E minor"**

Johann Pachelbel

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**"Rejoice! Ye Pure in Heart"**

**ELW 873**

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;  
your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your king.**

### ***Refrain***

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**With voice as full and strong  
as ocean's surging praise,  
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,  
the psalms of ancient days. *Refrain***

**With all the angel choirs,  
with all the saints on earth  
pour out the strains of joy and bliss,  
true rapture, noblest mirth. *Refrain***

**Still lift your standard high,  
still march in firm array,  
as pilgrims through the darkness wend  
till dawns the golden day. *Refrain***

**At last the march shall end;  
the wearied ones shall rest;  
the pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain***

**Praise God who reigns on high,  
the Lord whom we adore:  
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
one God forevermore. *Refrain***

**\*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**

*"This is the Feast"*

pg. 140

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ *You are great, O God,*

☞ **and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

**First Reading**

**Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, they are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

### **Reflection**

*How does the king enter Jerusalem? (verse 9) You may be familiar with this image from the Palm Sunday Gospel—see Matthew 21:1-11. What do you think this image means for the people of Jerusalem? What does it mean to you? The king is also a warrior. What does this warrior do? (verse 10) I'm used to the image of a warrior who brings war. What is the result of this warrior's arrival? Notice the geography in verse 10. Notes in the Lutheran Bible say that the territory imagine here is greater than the land under Persian control. What does this geographical note say about who is truly the king? What do you think the blood of the covenant refers to? (verse 11) Whose blood? What will happen to those who have been imprisoned by the enemy? (verse 12)*

### **Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are | good to all,  
and your compassion is over | all your works.**  
<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,  
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.  
<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom  
and speak | of your power,**  
<sup>12</sup>that all people may know | of your power  
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.  
<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- | out all  
ages.**  
**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.**  
<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all | those who fall  
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

### **Reflection**

*These verses are like a statement of faith. What is the faith they proclaim? (verses 8-9) They also portray the kingdom of God. Who is subject to this kingdom? (verse 10) What do they do as subjects of the king? (verses 11-12) How long will this kingdom last? (verse 13) What does the Lord, as king, do for those who are not strong and wealthy? (verses 13a-14) Do you think earthly rulers have a responsibility to follow in the footsteps of the heavenly king? Why or why not?*

### **Second Reading**

### **Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life enslaved under sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be bad. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### **Reflection**

*Parts of Romans are very difficult to understand. I don't think this text is one of them. What is Paul's confession about his intentions regarding his actions? (verse 15) I think verse 16 speaks of his intention, which is to follow the law, but he finds it very difficult to do. Verses 17-20 might seem like an excuse for not taking responsibility for what you do, since sin dwelling within me makes me do what the law forbids, but I think Paul is just saying what he finds to be true in himself. It's easy to think of this in personal terms: I don't want to eat that cookie, and I know it's not good for me, but I just can't stop thinking about it, and suddenly it's in my mouth! But there are also systemic ways in which we are entrapped by sin. For example, if you need a new dress or suit, and decide that you are going to shop for one, it's easy to find cheap clothes that look nice, but then you discover that they are probably made in a third world country by women who are grossly underpaid. So does your new suit or dress mean that you have contributed to the poverty of people who aren't paid a living wage? Here it's pretty easy to see, I think, that it is no longer I that do it, but the sin that dwells not only within me but all around me. No matter how good my intentions, I can't do everything right! —Which is what the law requires. What is God's response to this self-condemnation? (Verses 24-25)*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"**

**ELW 172**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, halle, hallelujah.  
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father;

and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

### **Reflection**

*What is the problem with “this generation”? (verse 16) I think we’re still in “this generation,” in that there are complainers no matter what someone does. The expectations of “this generation” is that if you refuse to eat and drink except for locusts and wild honey, you’re wrong! (If you eat too much meat, or not enough fish, or too many sweets, or not enough vegetables...) On the other hand, if you do eat and drink the wrong things, you’re a glutton and a drunkard, and if you hang out with the wrong people, you’re shameful. (verses 16-19) Do you recognize this? Who does Jesus hold up as the ones who really know what is the wisdom of God? (verses 25-26) Who knows Jesus? (verse 27) What do you see in your imagination when you see Jesus as one whose friends are “gluttons, drunkards, tax collectors, and sinners”? Do you think Jesus hung out with such as those out of a sense of duty, or did he truly enjoy being with them? Many of us care about our reputations (I know I do!), and what to be with “the right people.” I haven’t come all that far from junior high! What kind of a burden do you carry when you need to be though well of by “the right people”? What does Jesus invite us to do? (verses 28-30) How might it be easy and light to be with Jesus, not because you have to, but because he loves you? He is gentle and humble in heart, and offers our souls rest. What might it mean for us to rest our souls in Jesus, and to carry the “burden” of love that he offers us?*

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

### **SERMON**

### **“Created to be Yoked”**

Rev. Roger Lenander

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **“10,000 Reasons”**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul;  
worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul;  
I'll worship Your holy name.**

**The sun comes up,  
it's a new day dawning,  
it's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass,  
and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing  
when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul;**

worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul;  
I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love  
and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great  
and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness,  
I will keep on singing;  
ten thousand reasons  
for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul;  
worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul;  
I'll worship Your holy name.

And on that day,  
when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near,  
and my time has come;  
still, my soul will sing  
Your praise unending  
ten thousand years  
and then forevermore!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul;  
worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before,  
O my soul;  
I'll worship Your holy name. *(repeat chorus)*

*(Ending)*

Worship Your holy name  
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

**\*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**            *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

*A brief silence.*

Humble God, lead your church in the way of service. Prosper the work of campus ministries and Young Adults in Global Mission as they raise up leaders to serve the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Cultivating God, bless and encourage all who work the land to feed your people. Give them joy in their vocation. Shower rain on crops and health on livestock. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Holy One, you command peace to the nations. Give peaceful hearts and discerning minds to world leaders and citizens alike, that all who suffer violence and hunger come to know the fullness of life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you bid the weary come to you for rest. Renew energy for bone-tired people. Support our brothers and sisters who are burdened by grief, loneliness, and illness *especially Jim, 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).* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of everything, you have compassion for all that you have made. Show our congregation what mercy looks like in our own community, that we become faithful partners in your ministry. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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.**

God of life, we give you thanks and praise for all the people who have blessed our lives, for saints among us whose steadfast faith has strengthened ours (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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**

***"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"***

arr. Jack Schrader

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE *"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"***

**ELW 182**

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

- ☞ *Merciful God,*
- ☞ **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.*

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

**G** **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**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
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**

**G** **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**

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

**G** **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**

**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, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.*

**G** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG      "To God Be the Glory"**

**To God be the glory, great things he has done;  
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in.**

***Refrain***

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he has done.**

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender by grace may believe,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receive. *Refrain***

**Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our vict'ry, when Jesus we see. *Refrain***

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**G** **Thanks be to God!**