

Sunday, September 3, 2017
13th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

PRELUDE

"Prelude Modal"

Jean Langlois

*GATHERING SONG

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

***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 & 2

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 are the meadows,
fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *O God, we thank you for your Son,*

G **who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God Will Make a Way/He Leadeth Me"

Mark Hayes

Karen Jensen, soprano

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words: "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,

O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you

to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Reflection

*Jeremiah's call from God was a hard one—to speak words of God's coming judgment to people who did not want to hear. In fact, Jeremiah sometimes felt that it would have been better if he had never been born. (See Jeremiah 15:10) And Jeremiah is not afraid to complain to God about how he is being treated. With whom is he angry? (verse 15) What does he ask God to do? **But** who does he ultimately blame for his mistreatment? (the last line of verse 15) How did he get into this situation? (verse 16) One of my seminary professors used to urge us to “read, study, and inwardly digest” the Bible passages we were studying—I think quoting Luther, or perhaps Jeremiah. How could Jeremiah “eat” God's words? Are there any words from God that are so much a part of you that you can't not remember them? Jeremiah says they brought him joy and delight (verse 16), but then also trouble. (verse 17) What else besides joy and delight did the words from God bring to Jeremiah? How does he feel about God's words now? (verse 18) What does he call God? (verse 18) A deceitful brook is a stream in the desert that just dries up without watering anything, or maybe a mirage. In other words, Jeremiah says, “God, your words led me to bitterness. The joy I felt was false!” How does God respond to this complaint of Jeremiah's? (verse 19) God doesn't say, “Don't worry, they will love you again.” What will happen to Jeremiah's sense of call? (verse 20) Jeremiah's life was endangered many times by*

the words he spoke. What does God promise him? (verse 21) Have you ever faced being overwhelmed? What comforts you?

Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.

²**Test me, O | LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart | and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat | with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with | the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,**
that I may go in procession | round your altar,

⁷singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- | ry abides.

Reflection

Perhaps this psalm is one that Jeremiah turned to in his sense of rejection and isolation. What does the psalmist say to God? (verses 1-2, 4-5) What has kept the psalmist from despair? (verse 3) How does the psalmist express thanks to God? (verses 6-8) Can you think of times this psalm would be helpful to you?

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflinching standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reflection

This text is Paul's advice in everyday terms how to live life as justified Christians. As I read this, I think, "Easy to say, hard to do!" And yet, with practice, we can sometimes act this way. As you read it, what is the hardest part for you? With some sense that Paul is being just a little snarky, I read verses 19-20. I'm not sure I always trust God to see things my way, but with prayer, perhaps I'll trust to the wrath of God to encourage me to feed my enemies and do good for them!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

"With a Voice of Singing"

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

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Reflection

This text comes right after Peter's confession that he believes Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus knew, I believe, that the disciples would interpret this the wrong way. What does he warn the disciples is coming? (verse 21) What is Peter's reaction to this? (verse 22) How does Jesus respond to this? (verse 23) What do you think Peter wants for Jesus? How does that make him a "stumbling block" for Jesus? In what ways are you tempted to make Jesus what you want him to be? This reminds me of the request the mother of James and John makes of Jesus. (see Matthew 20:20-23) Jesus tells his disciples what being his followers means for them. If they expect to be glorified, what does Jesus remind them? (verses 24-25) What does it for you to take up Jesus' cross and follow him?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"Bearing His Cross - Not Mine"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"All To Jesus I Surrender"

All to Jesus I surrender,
all to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
in his presence daily live.

Refrain

I surrender all, (I surrender all),
I surrender all, (I surrender all),
all to thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
humbly at his feet I bow;
worldly pleasures all forsaken,
take me, Jesus, take me now. *Refrain*

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to thee;
fill me with thy love and power,
let thy blessings fall on me. *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**

“More Love to Thee” vv. 1

More love to Thee,
O Christ, more love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer
I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
More love, oh Christ, to Thee
More love to Thee,
more love to Thee!

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church and its mission. Make your church ready to lose its life for your sake. Unite it in service, sustain it in suffering, and let its love for others be genuine. 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.

We pray for the earth and its well-being. Make us mindful of the gifts you have labored to give us, and inspire us to commit ourselves to their care. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations and their leaders. Overcome evil with good. Show us how to live peaceably with all. Teach us how to love our enemies. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in any need. Provide for the hungry. Rescue the persecuted. Bless those who advocate for fair and safe working conditions and for just and livable wages. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for this community and its ministry. Move us to persevere in prayer, to extend hospitality to strangers, to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep. We lift up are bothers and sisters who are in need of your healing *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.

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.

Alpha and Omega, we give thanks for all the saints who now rest from their labors. Keep us in union with them until we are joined around your throne. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

Amen!

***PRAYER SONG**

"More Love to Thee"

This is my earnest plea:
More love, oh Christ, to Thee
More love to Thee,
more love to Thee!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

C **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"Will You Come and Follow Me" vv. 1 & 5

ELW 798

"Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

***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 *God of life,*

C you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. 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 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**

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 *Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.*

***BLESSING**

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

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Holy and compassionate God,*

C **in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May
your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a
living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and
our redeemer. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

G **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain***

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain***

***DISMISSAL**

POSTLUDE

“Lift High The Cross”

Michael Burkhardt