

Sunday, July 1, 2018
6th Sunday after Pentecost

***GATHERING SONG**

"Sing of the Lord's Goodness"

Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us,
his love is forever,
faithful to the end of days.
Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

Power he has wielded,
honor is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken,
one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.
Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

Courage in our darkness,
comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary,
pardon for the sinner,
splendor of the living God.
Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

Praise him with your singing,
praise him with the trumpet,
praise God with the lute and harp;
praise him with the cymbals,
praise him with your dancing,
praise God till the end of days.
Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

***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**

“Surely the Presence Of the Lord”

Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place
I can feel His mighty power
And His grace
I can hear the brush of angel's wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence
Of the Lord is in this place

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Almighty and merciful God,*

G **we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

FIRST READING

Lamentations 3:22-33

The book of Lamentations is one of our most important sources of information about the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 bce. Though the people admit that God's judgment was just, today's reading declares a fervent trust that God will not leave them forever.

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”
²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.
²⁷It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
²⁸to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
²⁹to put one’s mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
³⁰to give one’s cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.
³¹For the Lord will not
reject forever.
³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Reflection

The writer of Lamentations addresses the question, Who causes bad things to happen to the people of God? The answer: God. (If you think I typed that wrong, read all of Lamentations.) But this writer, writing after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, writing from a place of pain and despair, also holds onto hope. This text is the part of Lamentations that expresses hope. It’s easy to read this text when things are going well, when we are surrounded by good fortune. What is the writer saying in verses 22-24? And yet even this text reveals that this is not an easy answer to someone’s longing. What has happened as you read verses 25-30? Yet even in the midst of pain and suffering, the writer keeps hoping in the Lord. (verses 31-33) Have you experienced a time of despair, pain, suffering, in which it seems that God does not even hear your prayers? This text is for you!

Psalm 30

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.
²**O LORD my God, I cried | out to you,
and you restored | me to health.**
³You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.
⁴**Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful;
give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance.**
⁵God’s wrath is short; God’s favor | lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.
⁶**While I felt se- | cure, I said,
“I shall never | be disturbed.**

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains.”

Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

⁸**I cried to | you, O LORD;**

I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,

⁹“What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;**

O LORD, | be my helper.”

¹¹You have turned my wailing | into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

¹²**Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;**

O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

Reflection

This psalm is another person who has been through crisis. What happened? (verses 1-3) We don't know the details, but from what the psalmist says in verse 3, what do you think the psalmist might have been through? Many of us have been through times that feel like God's anger has been kindled against us. (verse 5) The psalmist in some ways claims some kind of guilt for suffering. (verses 6-7) Why might someone feel that God has hidden God's face from them? What was the response of the psalmist to the suffering experienced? (verses 8-10) How did the psalmist experience God's forgiveness and mercy? (verses 11-12) How might this psalm speak to you in times of difficulty?

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to participate in the collection his churches are organizing for the Christians in Jerusalem. He presents Jesus as an example of selfless stewardship and reminds them that Christians have received abundantly so that they can share abundantly.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Reflection

One of Paul's projects among the Gentile churches he preached to was a collection of cash, an offering, for those in Jerusalem who were undergoing difficult times. He doesn't exactly say, I'll know if you're serious about your faith in Jesus by the amount of your offering, but almost! (verses 7-8) Whose example does he give to the Corinthians as they consider what to give? (verse 9) How did the Corinthians begin their response to Paul's project? (verse 10) Paul calls on them to give "according to your means. . . not according to what one does not have." What does that mean to you? Some have lots of money, some have lots of time, some have lots of energy. What do you have? In our culture, it's easy to assume that we don't have much, because we compare ourselves to those who have more than we do. What is Paul's advice to those who make those comparisons? (verse 15) No one here, not even in a stewardship drive, tells you what you should give. How do you decide?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

"Alleluia! Give the Glory"

**Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Give the glory
and the honor
to the Lord! (repeat)**

***GOSPEL**

Mark 5:21-43

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage is ritually unclean, treated as an outcast in Jewish society. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in his power to heal and bring life out of death.

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus

said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.”⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was.⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!”⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement.⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Reflection

This text is a healing/resurrection story interrupted by a healing story. Who brings a request for healing to Jesus? (verses 21-23) For whom is healing requested? What is Jesus’ response? (verse 24) What about those who crowded around him? What do you think they wanted? Who “interrupted” Jesus’ trip to Jairus’s home? (verse 25) Remember what the law said about women who were bleeding? They were isolated. No one could touch them. Imagine suffering from an illness for twelve years, and being denied not only healing but also even the comfort of human touch. What had she tried? (verse 26) What did she try now? (verse 27) Notice that she is resisting, breaking the law, by even being out in the crowd, and especially by touching Jesus. What happened? (verse 29) Her immediate plan was probably to just quietly creep away, and only tell her family what has happened. But Jesus stops that. What does he do? (verses 30-32) How does the woman respond? (verse 33) Jesus affirms her bravery and faith. (verse 34) In the meantime, what happened to Jairus’s daughter? (verse 35) Jesus does not let the boundary of death keep him from his ministry. What happens? (verses 36-45) I think this story is about boundaries—boundaries that keep people separate, enslaved to cultural norms and expectations, including the expectation of the mourners that death is the end. People who cross boundaries often get in trouble—I think of the NFL players who decided not to stand in order to protest injustice. Rosa Parks, who refused to observe the boundary that African Americans needed to go to the back of the bus. Malala, who broke the boundary of the demand that girls not go to school. What boundaries keep you “in your place,” or even more, keep others in their place. How does Jesus’ break boundaries for us. The other thing this story does for us is to prefigure the resurrection. The woman was resurrected to her family, as was the little girl. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Deaconess Brenda Bass

SONG OF THE DAY

“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.

***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.

***PRAYER SONG**

"Change My Heart, O God"

ELW 801

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God's merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, send out your church to cross boundaries for the sake of your holy compassion. Use our words and our actions to bring peace and wholeness to all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bountiful God, all creation is a gift from you. Protect the earth from disaster and misuse. Free us from selfishness and help us to honor the bounty of nature, sharing our earthly home gently with one another and with future generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, soften the hearts of rulers and governments. Strengthen the voices of those who cry out for freedom and opportunity for the overlooked, oppressed, and abused. Teach your people to speak peace to all people and nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, give us faith and make us whole. Ease the anxiety of undiagnosed or chronic illness. Soothe the heartache of miscarriage or infertility. Look with compassion on all who cry to you for healing *especially Klaire and Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, protect and bless all civil servants, local government officials, and members of the armed services who work for our safety and security. Help us to be thoughtful citizens and good neighbors in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Immortal God, your mercies never end and your faithfulness is everlasting. Inspire us by the faith of the saints to wait patiently for your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

ELW 167

**Now the feast and celebration,
all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

***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**

**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 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.*

COMMUNION SPECIAL MUSIC *"Christ Is with Us"*
Sharmyn Thompson and Donovan Jones

Kendrick/Wimber

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

C **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, \mp Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

ELW 534

**Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
once more we bless you ere our worship cease,
then, lowly bending, wait your word of peace.**

**Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.**

**Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night;
for us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
your evening presence promise to your own.**

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.**

***DISMISSAL**

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

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Toccata Brevis”

Daniel Gawthrop