

Sunday, June 3, 2018
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should not ever work anyone else seven days a week. Even slaves should be able to rest; even resident aliens. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.

PRELUDE

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Alice Jordan

***GATHERING SONG**

"Gather Us In"

ELW 532

Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

**Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

***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**

“Glory Be to God”

pg. 204

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father’s splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

℟ *Almighty and ever-living God,*

☩ **throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Part of the Ten Commandments, these verses instruct the Israelites to keep the Sabbath. The Israelites are to rest and they are to allow their slaves, their livestock, and the foreigners living among them to do the same. They were once slaves, and so they are to treat their own slaves justly.

¹²Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of

Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

Reflection

This text is part of the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy. (You may want to compare this text with the commandment about the Sabbath in Exodus 20:8-11.) What is the commandment? (verse 12) How is this related to the commandment (implicitly given here) to work? (verse 13) Who does this commandment apply to? (verse 14) What is the reason for God giving this commandment to the people? (verse 15) If you looked up the commandment in Exodus 20, what is the reason for God giving the commandment in Exodus? As another comparison, look at the meaning of the Third Commandment in Luther's Small Catechism (page 1160 in the hymnal). What does Luther say is the reason God has given us this commandment? What do you think of the differences in these? For a culture in which work equals meaning equals life, what does this commandment feel like in your mind and heart? ("But when do I do all the things I need to get done, like mow the lawn, or clean house?" or "I wish I could take some time just for myself, but it doesn't work out that way!" or "I'm glad we don't have blue laws any more!") How might we see this commandment as a gift from God? If it is a gift, how do we make use of this gift in blessing God?

PSALM 81:1-10

¹Sing with joy to | God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the | God of Jacob.

²**Raise a song and | sound the timbrel,
the merry harp, | and the lyre.**

³Blow the ram's horn at | the new moon,
and at the full moon, the day | of our feast;

⁴**for this is a stat- | ute for Israel,
a law of the | God of Jacob.**

⁵God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the | land of Egypt,
where I heard a voice I | did not know:

⁶**I eased your shoulder | from the burden;
your hands were set free from the grave- | digger's basket.**

⁷You called on me in trouble, and I de- | livered you;

I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the wa- | ters of Meribah.

⁸**Hear, O my people, and I will ad- | monish you:
O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!**

⁹There shall be no strange | god among you;
you shall not worship a | foreign god.

¹⁰**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the | land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and | I will fill it.**

Reflection

What is the psalmist exhorting the people to do? (verses 1-3) How would these actions honor God's commandment? How is singing and praising God a reversal of what people experience in slavery? (verses 5-6) How did God respond to the needs of the people? (verse 7) Why does God want to be worshipped and praised by the people? (verses 8-9) How do God's actions show God's love and grace for the people? (verse 10) How do we honor and worship God if our relationship with God is God's gift to us?

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

When we carry out God's ministry we do so not for our glory but for the sake of Jesus Christ whom we proclaim as Lord. The power for ministry comes from God, not us, so that we persevere no matter what, trusting in God's power and promises at work through us.

⁵We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Reflection

In 2 Corinthians, Paul takes on the difficult subject of his relationship (as one who has to exercise leadership) with the congregation in Corinth. Evidently some have accused him of using this leadership role to lord it over others. What does Paul say about that? (verse 5) How is Paul's servant leadership a reflection of God's creative love in Jesus? (verse 6) Although Paul is clear that his call to leadership comes from God, how does he present himself as leader and teacher of the faith? (verse 7) Paul proclaims and owns his own weakness and faults in verses 8-10. Do you experience the same kind of difficulties as you reflect on and act out of your faith? What does it mean to "carry in the body the death of Jesus"? How do people see in us the life of Jesus?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

ELW 172

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

***GOSPEL**

Mark 2:23--3:6

Jesus challenges the prevailing interpretation of what is lawful on the sabbath and tells his critics that the sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around. Healing the man with the withered hand is work that cannot wait until the next day.

²³One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" ²⁵And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? ²⁶He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." ²⁷Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; ²⁸so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

^{3:1}Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ²They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. ³And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." ⁴Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. ⁵He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Reflection

What did the Pharisees accuse Jesus and his disciples of? (verses 23-24) What was his response to them? (verses 25-26) What authority does Jesus claim? (verses 27-28) As followers of Jesus, what is our authority in response to the commandments? How does Paul's leadership and reminder that through our authority we carry in our bodies the death of Christ affect our response to this? On the one hand, it's important that we follow the commandments given by God. On the other hand, commandments and rules are often used to keep other people in line, like children or people who we don't think are part of the community. How do we decide what our proper response to commandments (both divine and human) is?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

*"Serving a Narrow Minded God"
"Remember the Sabbath"*

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Here I Am To Worship"

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Refrain

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor *refrain*

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross *(x2 then to 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**

“Cares Chorus”

**I cast all my cares upon you;
I lay all of my burdens
down at your feet,
And anytime that I don't know
what to do,
I will cast all my cares upon you.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

A brief silence.

God our strength, you command your people to keep sabbath. Coax your church away from the busyness of the world and give us holy rest, so that, refreshed, we will give vibrant witness to your world-healing love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our strength, you restore what is withered. As all creation stretches forth in hunger and thirst for you, revive what has ceased to flourish and repair what has fallen into decay. Make us partners in your holy healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our strength, we ache for peace. Teach nations that you carry our burdens, you free human hands, and you rescue us in distress. Raise up leaders in the world who listen to your voice and walk in your ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our strength, people are afflicted and perplexed, persecuted and struck down. Shine the light of your glory into the hearts of your suffering ones *especially Myrene, Della, Dorothy, Mary Anna, Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds) so that they will not be crushed, driven to despair, or forsaken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our strength, you grieve our hardness of heart whenever we turn your holy counsel into rules to control others. Open our hearts to your loving will for these times, for our neighbors, and for this community of faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our strength, death is at work in us, but life is in you. Free us now to live into your promise of indestructible life and, in the end, restore us with all the saints. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

C **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

“Thank the Lord”

Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
tell ev’ryone what he has done.
Let ev’ryone who seeks the Lord
rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises
and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

***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,
are full of your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes,
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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Here Is Bread"

Graham Kendrick

Sharmyn Thompson, soloist

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

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"My Life Is In You, Lord"

Refrain

My life is in You Lord
My strength is in You Lord
My hope is in You Lord
In You it's in You
My life is in You Lord
My strength is in You Lord
My hope is in You Lord
In You it's in You

I will praise You
With all of my life
I will praise You
With all of my strength
With all of my life
With all of my strength
All of my hope is in You *refrain*

Ending

In You

***DISMISSAL**

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

C **Thanks be to God!**