

Sunday, September 16, 2018
17th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

"Lift High the Cross"

arr. Alice Jordan

***GATHERING 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*

***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** ***"Praise to You, O God of Mercy" v. 1

Praise to you, O God of mercy:
thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!

Bridge

Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.

Praise to you, O God of mercy:
thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☐ *O God,*

☑ **through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

ANTHEM

“Be the One”

Koch/Denson/Clark
arr. John Coates

Chancel Choir

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Reflection

This text is the third Servant Song. What is the task of the servant? (verse 4) How does the servant act, from a position of power over or from a position of being alongside those who are to be served? How does the servant listen? Although the servant has “the tongue of a teacher,”

the servant's main theme is to listen. (verses 4-5) If you have ever taught someone, how does this sound to you? To whom does the servant listen? (verse 5) How was the servant received by those to whom the servant was sent? (verse 6) How does the servant manage this? (verse 7) Of what is the servant assured? (verse 8) Certainly not that the servant will not be troubled! How does the Lord God help the servant? (verse 9a) Who is the servant? Perhaps Israel, in the context in which this text was written; perhaps the prophet, to whom the word of the Lord is given to teach and proclaim. Christians have often identified the servant as Jesus. Could the servant be us? What do you think?

Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,

²**for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenever | er I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me;
I came to | grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, | save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;
our God is full | of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;
I was brought low, | and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt | well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence | of the LORD
in the land | of the living.

Reflection

What is the story the psalmist is telling? One of the gifts of this psalm is that the outline of the story is here, and the details are left to our imagination. If I were to tell this story in the outline, it would be, Here's why I love the Lord: because when I needed the Lord, God answered me! I was in trouble, such terrible trouble that I thought I was dying, or that I would die from grief. But I called on God, who graciously saved my life. Since God has saved me, I don't need to fear death, because God is with me! Now think about a time when you needed God, and God answered. What are the details of your story? Why do you love the Lord?

SECOND READING

James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If

we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Reflection

James warns against becoming a teacher. Why? (verses 1-2) What gets people who teach (and most of us, even when we don't teach) into trouble? How does James say the tongue is like a bridle, or a rudder? (verses 3-5) What exploits has your tongue been involved in? Jim and I were in northern California on vacation this spring. Such beautiful country! And our hearts were broken by the stories of the huge fires taking place in the very places we enjoyed looking at the scenery! What happens when the tongue sets a fire? Have you ever been the victim of someone else's fire set by their tongue? Perhaps someone gossiped about you, and the story (true or not) that you didn't want told got around. Have you ever set such a fire? Why does James say the tongue cannot be tamed? (verses 6-8) How can you use your tongue for good? For evil? (verses 9-10) This seems to James to be unnatural. (verses 11-12) Why do you think this is true?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

"With a Voice of Singing"

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

***GOSPEL**

Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise

again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Reflection

What question did Jesus ask his disciples? (verse 27) What did they answer? (verse 28) Then he asks the real question. What is it? (verse 29) What is Peter’s answer? This comes as a surprise to his disciples, but not to us. For why not, see Mark 1:1. Why do you think Jesus didn’t want this news about him to get around? (verse 30) This “Messianic Secret” has been a mystery to Biblical scholars, preachers, and many who read Mark, so if you aren’t sure of the answer, you’re in good company! What do you think the disciples expected of the Messiah? What did Jesus tell them to expect? (verse 31) What was Peter’s response to this? (verse 32) Why do you think Jesus rebuked Peter? (verse 33) Remember in Mark 1:12-13, and especially Matthew 4:1-11, and Luke 4:1-13, how Jesus was tempted by the devil (Satan)? Read Luke 4:13—do you think what Peter said to Jesus was really from Satan—the devil returning at an opportune time? What does Jesus want his disciples (including the crowd) to know what will be involved if they follow him? (verses 34-35) The Isaiah text includes the assurance that the servant will not be put to shame (Isaiah 50:7). Jesus warns of those of whom he will be ashamed. Who is that? (verses 36-38) What is our assurance that Jesus will not be ashamed of us? Who do you say that Jesus is?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Love Your City: Change the World
Tongue Lashing

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

“Go Make a Difference”

Refrain

Go make a diff'rence
We can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence
We can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world

We are the salt of the earth
Called to let the people see

The love of God in you and me
We are the light of the world
Not to be hidden but be seen
Go make a diff'rence in the world *Refrain*

We are the hands of Christ
Reaching out to those in need
The face of God for all to see
We are the spirit of hope
We are the voice of peace
Go make a diff'rence in the world *Refrain*

So let your love shine on
Let it shine for all to see
Go make a diff'rence in the world
And the Spirit of Christ
Will be with us as we go
Go make a diff'rence in the world

Go make a diff'rence
We can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence
We can make a diff'rence
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence in the world
Go make a diff'rence in the world

***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**

"The Spirit Intercedes For Us"

ELW 180

The Spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep
for words to express.
Oh, oh.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you call your church to embody the love you have shown us. Raise us up each day to bear witness against sin, death, and the grave. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creative God, quarks and galaxies bear witness to your imagination. Inspire scientists, naturalists, and conservationists who work to conserve precious natural resources. Grant us the wisdom to be good keepers of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you bless citizens with the gifts of reason and perseverance. Embolden people around the world to seek the common good, to serve their neighbors, and to delight in freedom. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, you bless us with an abundant world. When your children wander homeless, hungry, and naked, strengthen us to be your presence as we care for all those in need. Make your presence known for all who are in need of healing *especially Larry, "Doc", Irene, David, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy, 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.

Welcoming God, thank you for this congregation where we have found a home. Make us restless as we seek new and creative ways to expand our loving invitation to all people who seek a community. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In every time and in every place, you have raised up examples of loving service. Make us all good and loving witnesses to your extravagant compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“Sing of the Lord’s Goodness” vv. 1, 3, 4

**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.**

**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.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *(The final chorus)*

***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;
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**

pg. 190

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, 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 *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, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

“We Rejoice in the Grace of God” (twice)

**We rejoice in the grace of God
poured upon our lives;
lovingkindness has come to us
because of Jesus Christ.
We rejoice in the grace of God,
our hearts overflow.
What a joy to know the grace of God!**