

Sunday, September 9, 2018
16th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

"Prelude on a Shaker Hymn Tune"

Gilbert Martin

***GATHERING SONG**

"Earth and All Stars!"

ELW 731

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *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.*

C **And also with you.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song" v. 4

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

▣ *Gracious God,*

▣ throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen!

ANTHEM

“Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord”

Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir

Liza Heeler, trumpet

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Reflection

This text is written to those who fear they will never see their homeland again, but will be stuck in the wilderness of pain and loneliness. What does Isaiah say to the people who are afraid? (verse 4) I had to look up “recompense.” It means a fix for what is wrong, satisfaction for injury. What will happen to those who have taken the people into exile? What will happen to the exiles? Notes in the Lutheran Bible point out that these verses reverse the judgment of Isaiah 6:9-10, in which God tells Isaiah to tell the people that even though they listen and watch what is going on, they won’t hear and understand; their minds will be dull, and their eyes will be shut and their ears stopped up. What is the promise in verses 5-6? Perhaps it is that those who first

of all wouldn't see, and then saw what they couldn't stand, will now be able to see the good work of God for them, and they will be able to sing and dance for joy. What will happen to their exile, which they have experienced as wilderness and pain? (verses 6-7a) Have you ever had such a time, when you have experienced physical pain, or weariness, or grief, or loneliness, and then experienced the promise of God's salvation? What was that like for you? How does this text help you to understand the promises of God?

Psalm 146

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**

who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**

the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Reflection

This psalm is one of praise to God, who brings salvation. Who does the psalmist warn will be no help? (verses 3-4) How do we know God is powerful to help? (verses 5-10) Who does God the Lord help? (verses 7-9) Notice that there is nothing here about God helping those who help themselves, but God helps those who cannot help themselves! Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who

oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reflection

What has James noticed about the behavior of people in the church? (verses 1-4) Who has been chosen by God to be “rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom”? (verse 5) How have they been treated? (verse 6) How have believers been treated by those who are rich? (verses 6-7) Do you think James wants the rich to be treated poorly by believers? What does he argue for? (verses 8-9) Why is it important to treat all people, rich and poor alike, well? (verses 9-12) What is better than judgment, and should guide our behavior? (verse 13) Verses 14-17 are James’s comparison of faith and works? Are we saved by our works? How do we share our faith in Jesus? (read verse 18) If someone has no faith, do you think they will be able to do good works? Why or why not?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW 174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

***GOSPEL**

Mark 7:24-37

In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Reflection

The story in verses 24-30 makes me very uncomfortable. Where is Jesus in this story? (verse 24) Tyre is on the Mediterranean Sea, near the Gentile region of Syria and Phoenicia. Who approaches him there? (verse 25) What does she want? (verse 26) What does Jesus respond? (verse 27—this is the part of the story that makes me very uncomfortable) What does the woman say? (verse 28) The part of this story I like is how persistent this woman is! What happens? (verses 29-30) What makes a difference to Jesus? Do you think Jesus' intention is not to help her? What difference would that make to your faith? Does this story mean that we could refuse to help people who are not like us? One thing the woman might have done is to creep away after what Jesus said to her. Often people—maybe especially women—have historically remained silent or just gone away in the face of criticism or refusal to hear or help. What do you think gave her the courage to respond as she did? When Jesus returns to closer to home, who do the people bring to him? (verses 31-32) What do they ask of him? What does he do? (verses 33-34) How does this bring to life the prophecy of Isaiah in our first reading and of Psalm 146?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Love Your City: Change the World
Shed Entitlement

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**

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch Him,
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen;
open our eyes, Lord,

we want to see Jesus.

***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 proclaim the love of Christ to a needy world. Embolden us to be your risen body by welcoming strangers and serving our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, small sprouts and tall trees proclaim your majesty. Give us clear eyes to see nature's beauty and wise minds to protect our home, this earth, from misuse and harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you draw order from chaos. Watch over the nations of the world. Bless citizens and leaders who strive toward the beloved community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you give us all that we need. When your children suffer from hunger, poverty, loneliness, persecution, injury, or illness, send generous helpers and companions. We pray especially for the friends and family of Jeff Chladek, Doris, "Doc", Irene, David, Lisa and her baby Lara, and 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, you set a table for us. Embolden this congregation to seek new ways of inviting others to the feast of all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You bless us with throngs of saints who witness to your compassion. With gratitude, we recall the lives and deeds of those who proclaim lovingkindness to a needy world. 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.*

C **And also with you!**

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,
 fill us with your love,
 show us how to serve
 the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
 silently washes their feet,
 master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
 varied in color and race,
 neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*

These are the ones we will serve,
 these are the ones we will love;
 all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

Kneel at the feet of our friends,
 silently washing their feet:
 this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

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

P *God of life,*

G 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.*

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**

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.*

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 *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.*

G **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Holy and compassionate God,*

G **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.*

G **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"* (repeat v1 at the end) **ELW 860*

**I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**