

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
5th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2020

PRELUDE

America the Beautiful

Austin Lovelace

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The Sun of Righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

C Gracious God, we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts and those unknown to us but seen by You. We know that before You nothing remains hidden, and in You everything is revealed. Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in Your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

C For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

C for His mercy endures forever.

P Praise God for His mighty acts;

C praise God according to His excellent greatness!

P Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

C Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the challenges of this world, and grant to us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

"Come unto Me, ye weary, and I will give you rest."
O blessed voice of Jesus, which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, of pardon, grace, and peace,
of joy that hath no ending, of love that cannot cease.

"Come unto Me, ye wand'ers, and I will give you light."
O loving voice of Jesus, which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness, and we had lost our way;
but Thou hast brought us gladness and songs at break of day.

"And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus, which drives away our doubt,
which, though we be unworthy of love so great and free,
invites us very sinners to come, dear Lord to Thee!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 7:15-25

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE HYMN

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains
clean in His blood most precious till not a spot remains.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John the Baptist:] ¹⁶“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds....” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for the needs of the world.

P We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share Your word. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for the nations, especially the United States on this Independence Day weekend. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult decisions. Free us from exclusivity and intolerance. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for all in need. For those who are fearful or anxious due to the ongoing pandemic, and for caregivers and first responders. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed, especially those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now (*pause*). Take their yoke upon You and ease their burdens. Give Your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways Your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into Your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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.

PRAYER FOR THE NATION

P Eternal God, Your love is steadfast and Your strength never fails. In this time of danger and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with Your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things keep us faithful towards You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God Bless Our Native Land

Lani Smith

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector Ellen Story



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