



The Third Sunday after Pentecost June 21, 2020

Welcome

In this time of world-wide crisis, when it is not safe for the church to gather for worship as the body of Christ in person, we gather now to hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Opening Sentence

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

Collect of the Day

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Enriching Our Worship

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalm

O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.
And your glory all the day long.

Praise to the holy and the undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God,
you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to your voice!

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you were too powerful for me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
⁹If I say, "I will not mention the Lord,
or speak any more in the name of the Lord,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire

shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
“Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
“Perhaps Jeremiah can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him.”
¹¹But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
¹²O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!
For the Lord has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: *We respond to the first lesson with a portion of Psalm 69*

Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.
⁸I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother’s children.
⁹Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
¹⁰I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.
¹⁶Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.
¹⁷Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸*Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.*

The Second Lesson: A Reading from The Book of Romans

Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel:

Matthew 10:24-39

[Jesus said:] ²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of the master's household!"

²⁶"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

³²"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a son against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and in-laws against one another;
³⁶and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection: *The Rev. Bill Petersen*

The Creed: *We profess our faith using the words of The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Prayers: *We center ourselves in the peace and love of Jesus through prayer*

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your love is kind."

A brief silence.

O God, Father in heaven, hold your church in your loving arms. Protect believers who face persecution for your sake. Bless the work of evangelists and teachers like Onesimos Nesib, whom we commemorate today, as they translate their faith into other languages. Strengthen our pastors, deacons, and church councils for their ministry during these troubling times.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our provider, here in the north the summer solstice reminds us of your care for the whole creation. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Feed all your creatures, both the animals and the humans, with the sustenance they need for life. Guide us to sources of energy that do not destroy the earth you have created.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our ruler, inspire our president, our governors and our legislators to work towards justice for all. Lead us to ways of life that are free from racial and ethnic prejudice. Strengthen the world's democracies, and sustain those who are working to secure free and safe elections. Give a home to refugees. Form our military and our police to maintain peace and to inhibit violence.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our physician, bring healing to all who are sick and suffering. Preserve the world from more waves of the coronavirus, and guide researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Protect those whose jobs expose them to contagion. Support our health care workers. We remember before you those we name here now:

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our peacemaker, inhabit each household in the land with your powerful peace. Train us to live together in harmony, especially when quarantined together. Nourish marriages, and sustain extended families. Protect children from harm of every kind.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our source of life, bless all fathers and father figures as they face both long-standing and emerging family needs. Comfort those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beloved, receive now the petitions of our own hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beginning and our end, we bless you for all our forebears in family and faith who have lived and died in you. Remind us of their sacrifices, and at the end bring us with them in your household of joy.

A brief silence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray...

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life,

heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Benediction and Dismissal

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God ✠ the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our Savior, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide, be with you and remain with you, this day and forevermore. *Amen.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Send forth your Spirit, O God,
and renew the face of the earth.