

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado***

Family Devotion in Absence

***First Sunday after Trinity - June 14, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 768 “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray”*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

INTROIT *Psalm 13:1-6*

O Lord, I have trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed over him,”

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the strength of all who trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us Your grace to keep Your commandments that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 15:1-6*

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward

heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 41:4, 1*

I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you!”
Blessed is the one who considers the poor!
In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him.

EPISTLE *1 John 4:16-21*

¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 16:19-31*

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 708 “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”*

SERMON

Jesus is not saying in the Gospel reading that all rich people go to hell and all poor people go to heaven. There will be many people in heaven who were rich in this life; and there will be many people in hell who were poor in this life. Only faith in Christ determines who is a Christian, a believer. As the Old Testament reading for today shows, Abram (later renamed Abraham) believed the Lord and it was counted to him as righteousness. Therefore, only those

who believe the Word of the Lord, like Abraham, are righteous before God. And, it takes God-given faith in a person's heart to believe God and his Word. So, Jesus tells the story about the rich man and Lazarus to make a larger point. The rich man is rich toward the things of this fallen world. In other words, he loved and even trusted in the things of this world rather than in God and his Christ. The poor man was poor toward the things of this fallen world. He neither loved nor trusted in the things of this life, but being a spiritual descendant of Abraham the believer, the man of faith, the poor man believed and trusted in the Lord alone and not any of the things of this sinful world. That's the point of what Jesus is teaching in the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

There is also a secondary aspect to this story; it is about love. Although the rich man had the means to help the poor man, who longed to eat the crumbs that fell from his table, he didn't help the poor man. The poor man was laid at the gate of the rich man, indicating that his sores and condition were so bad that he couldn't even walk on his own. Even the dogs were more merciful than the rich man, indicating that he was worse than a witless animal. As an unbeliever, and as someone who cared more about his own worldly wealth and self indulgence than helping another human being, the rich man had no love. He neither loved God nor loved his neighbor, which also contributed to his torment in hell. He lived for himself only in the fallen world and he suffered the consequences for eternity. On the other hand, the poor man suffered in this life together with Christ and he shared in Christ's pleasures forever. Although the rich man did not love and help the poor man, God did. As St. John says in the Epistle reading, "we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us." And the poor man knew and believed the love God had for him.

So, which are you? Are you the rich man or are you the poor man? Perhaps you are both, but in a different way. Are you rich toward the things of this life and poor toward the things of God and heaven? Or, are you poor toward the things of this life and rich toward God and heaven? You see, it really doesn't matter how much money and possessions you have. What matters is that you have faith and love in Christ. John also says, "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world." Like Abraham and the poor man, what matters for you is living in communion with the Triune God, who is love. The Father loves you in Christ his beloved Son by the love of the Holy Spirit who works faith and love in you through the Word, Baptism, Absolution, and Communion. By faith in Christ, you receive the love of the Holy Spirit who then works love within you both toward God and your fellow human beings. Again, John says, "We love because he first loved us." As Luther concluded, "In the end, we are all poor beggars before God." But Luther also said that through faith in Christ we rise above our neighbor and all the world to rule over them, and through love we sink beneath the inhabitants of the world and our neighbor to serve them. So, be both rich and poor in Christ, rich in eternal things and poor in earthly things.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made

man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN *LSB 851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”*

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *LSB 797 “Praise the Almighty”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Proverbs 9:1-10; 1 John 3:13-18;
Luke 14:15-24.

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