

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado
Sunday Family Devotion in Absence
Sixth Sunday after Trinity - July 19, 2020
The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)

OPENING HYMN *TLH 369 "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalm 28:1-2, 7-9*

The LORD is the strength of his people;

he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Save your people and bless your heritage!

Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,

lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,

when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;

my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

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

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Exodus 20:1-17*

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or

your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ “You shall not murder. ¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ “You shall not steal. ¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.” (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 90:13, 1, 2b*

Return, O LORD! How long?

Have pity on your servants!

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

EPISTLE *Romans 6:1-11*

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:17-26*

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN TLH 377 “*Salvation Unto Us has Come*”

SERMON

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:20-24 ESV)

This was quite a week for the State of Colorado. The governor of the state made it mandatory for all people to wear masks when in public places. The idea is that if the mask is worn then you will have less chance of getting the coronavirus or giving it to someone else.

The words of Jesus in our Gospel lesson imply the removal of our masks. In terms of our pride and self-righteousness, it is time to take off the mask. Our standing before God is not established on how good we can look to others by doing all the right things as was the case with the scribes and Pharisees. Our relationship with the Lord is a matter of admitting that we fall short of God’s perfection. The mask comes off behind which we hide our sinful hearts when the words of Jesus show us that sin is far more common than we thought. We don’t have to kill someone to be liable for murder, just hold anger in our hearts against them. To hold someone in contempt calling them a fool is enough to make one liable for eternal punishment. Being unwilling to be reconciled to a fellow Christian is enough to disqualify us from coming to the Lord’s altar. Jesus with these words of Law removes the mask behind which we hide our day-to-day sins.

But we also know that Jesus removes His mask and reveals Himself as the One Who is the God-man capable of removing our sin with His Word of forgiveness and giving us the vision of His mercy. As Jesus’ identity as our Savior was masked in His suffering and death, He is now revealed in His resurrection from the dead as the One capable and willing to remove our sin, our death, and our eternal punishment. Jesus takes off His mask revealing Himself in His Word and Sacraments, so that we may see by faith in Him that our lives are not hopeless.

The result for every one of His believers is that we don’t have to hide behind a mask of shame anymore. Through faith in His mercy, we can remove our mask as we confess our real sins in thought, word, and deed and receive His divine forgiveness and blessing. He makes us new people able to reveal His love in our service to others.

When and where we wear a physical mask is a matter of personal judgment, but as Christians we must see the unmasked Jesus and rely on His promises for this life and the next.

In Christ, Pastor Dwight Hellmers

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 TLH 304 “An Awe-Full Mystery Is Here”

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 TLH 248 “Father of Glory, to Thy Name”

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Genesis 2:7-17; Romans 6:19-23;
Mark 8:1-9.