

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado
Family Devotion in Absence
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity - August 23, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 559 “Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion”*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalm 68:1, 3, 5b, 6a, 7a, 10b, 19, 35b*

God is in his holy habitation;

 he settles the solitary in a home.

The God of Israel—he is the one

 who gives power and strength to his people.

God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;

 and those who hate him shall flee before him!

But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God;

 they shall be jubilant with joy!

O God, when you went out before your people,

 in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up;

 God is our salvation.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 4:1-15*

¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must

rule over it.”⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?”¹⁰ And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.”¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear.¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 28:7b, 1a, 2a*

In God my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,
hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 2:1-10*

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 18:9-14*

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 566 “By Grace I’m Saved”*

SERMON

When the devil deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and they fell into sin, their relationship with God was broken ... and so was their relationship with each other. Adam and

Eve heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden and they hid themselves among the trees. They had made coverings for their nakedness out of fig leaves. So, when they hid among the trees of the garden it is as if they were wearing camouflage, a disguise, a means of hiding themselves from their enemy. But God called to the man and said, “Where are you?” not because he did not know where he was, but in a scolding tone like when a parent calls to a hiding child after they have done something wrong. Finally, coming out and fessing up, Adam told the Lord that he was afraid because he was naked and that is why he hid from God. Then God asked who told him that he was naked and had he eaten from the forbidden tree. Then the brokenness of the relationships was revealed. Adam answered, “The woman *you* put here with me gave me fruit from the tree and I ate.” It’s not my fault God. It’s yours. *You* are the one who put this woman here with me. *She* gave the fruit to me. It’s the fault of both of you, God. *You* and *she* are to blame for this mess. So, the Lord asks the woman what she did and she blamed the devil for deceiving her. He did deceive her, but at the end of God’s curse upon Satan the first promise of the Savior was made. “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed; He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.” The promised Seed of the woman did overcome Satan thousands of years later when Christ Jesus – the Seed of the woman, the Virgin Mary – died on the cross to pay for the sins of all people of all time. He crushed the head of that ancient serpent by taking the sins of Adam and Eve and us, their sinful descendants, upon himself and bearing them to the cross to crucify our sins there with him. He rose from the dead on the third day and ascended into heaven in his glorified body to prepare a place for us there and to give us the certain hope of our own resurrection and ascension in our own bodies into the realms of glory to live with him in heaven forever.

This message of the Gospel and the hope of our eternal life only save us by faith, by believing in what the message says. That is one of the things emphasized in the Epistle reading for today when Paul says, “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” And, as Paul says in Romans 10, “Faith comes by hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.” The Holy Spirit gives the gift of faith through the Word, and that gift of faith receives and believes the Gospel of Christ. It was similar for the people of the Old Testament, but they had salvation by believing the promise of the coming Christ, the Messiah. For us today, we believe the Gospel of the Christ who came and accomplished our salvation 2,000 years ago, but for Adam and Eve the Messiah would not come for another 4,000 years. Evidently, though, Adam and Eve did not know that. God had promised that the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent, the devil. And since Adam and Eve knew of no other woman, they believed that Eve’s firstborn son was the Savior, the promised Seed. The Old Testament reading indicates this, “Adam knew [had intercourse with] Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” In the Hebrew, Eve literally says, “I have begotten a man, the LORD.” She, and most likely Adam too, believed that she had given birth to the incarnated LORD. Although this was not accurate, the point is that they believed the promise. They believed in the promised Savior, and they were saved. The same is true for us Christians; we believe in Jesus Christ as the Seed of the woman who fulfilled the promise and brought salvation to mankind by his incarnation, life, death,

resurrection, and ascension. We also receive by faith the results of Christ's works of salvation through the new birth of Holy Baptism, the continual cleansing of our original and actual sins through Holy Absolution, and the nourishment and sanctification through the Body and the Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. The Lord blesses us abundantly through these, his saving gifts; and we receive them from his gracious hand and believe his Gospel Word. Amen!

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 624 "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"*

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 793 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Isaiah 29:17-24; Romans 10:9-17;

Mark 7:31-37.

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