

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

Family Devotion in Absence

***Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 10, 2020
The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)***

OPENING HYMN *TLH 190 "Christ the Lord is Risen Again"*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalms 98:1a-b, 2b, 3-4*

Sing to the LORD a new song, Alleluia,

for he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alleluia.

His right hand and his holy arm

have worked salvation for him.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 12:1-6*

¹ You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ "Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel." (ESV)

GRADUAL *Adapted from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6*

Christ has risen from the dead.

God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor,
He has given him dominion over the works of his hands;
he has put all things under his feet.

EPISTLE *James 1:16-21*

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 16:5-15*

⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’
⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *TLH 387 “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”*

SERMON

I don’t know about you, but the collect of the day (the theme prayer of the day) seemed to reach into my very soul and grab me. It says, “O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”

The first sentence acknowledges that it is God – implied working through his Word – who makes the minds of his faithful Christian people to be of one will. This obviously doesn’t mean that we don’t have different perspectives or even disagreements at times. But it does mean that even when we do disagree about something, we mustn’t be disagreeable. We see in our society, and perhaps even in our own families or maybe among our members, sort of a division in how to deal with the crises we are facing due to the coronavirus. One side seeks to protect people from contracting it through masks, social distancing, and staying at home. Another side seeks to protect people from government overreach through freedom, self expression, and

personal responsibility. Something along these lines... There seems to be such a disagreement that one can hardly imagine any unity of mind between the two. But for us as Christian people there can be and is unity among us by listening to God's Word. In the two examples, faith in Christ working through love can bring these two sides together in unity. Both can be done at the same time with equal validity and purpose. Certainly, I pray that the Lord will work such unity of mind among us at Risen Christ Lutheran Church and within the One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church throughout the world.

The second sentence asks our gracious Lord to give us love for the things that God has commanded and a desire for his promises. The commandments of God can be understood as two tables: the first table having to do with how God wants us to relate to him and the second table having to do with how God wants us to relate to one another. In short, love for God and love for our neighbor. This love is not mustered up within us by our own strength or works, but rather the Holy Spirit works love within and through us by faith in Christ. We first receive the Holy Spirit and love of God in Christ through the Word and Sacraments, then the Holy Spirit works in us from the inside out to love and serve God by loving and serving our neighbor. The Holy Spirit, working through the Word, Baptism, Absolution, and Communion then points us in faith to the promises of God and the hope of our resurrection in our bodies unto everlasting life and glory. This is where the second part of the second sentence comes in, "that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found." As we are all experiencing during the current health and economic crises, the part about the "many changes of this world" really hits home. But the good news is that this is not all there is. As the collect indicates, for us as Christians, our hearts are fixed where true joys, eternal joys, everlasting joys, glorious heavenly joys are found.

We have these true joys now by faith in Christ. In Christ, we have received and continue to receive the Holy Spirit from our Heavenly Father through the preaching of and meditation on the Holy Word, and in our Holy Baptism, and by Holy Absolution, and through the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. These heavenly gifts of our Lord bring to us the joy of Christ's incarnation, vicarious life, atoning death, and justifying resurrection. They work joy in us through the forgiveness and remission of our sins. God gives us joy in the eternal life that we now have by faith in Christ. And ... we will have true joy, eternal joy, everlasting joy, glorious heavenly joy in both soul and body when Christ resurrects us on the Last Day to live together with him and the Father and the Holy Spirit, and with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven forever and ever. 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 TLH 217 *“Oh, Sing with Exultation”*

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 236 *“Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Numbers 21:4-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-6; John 16:23-33.

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