

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

Sunday Family Devotion in Absence

Second Sunday after Trinity

June 21, 2020

The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)

OPENING HYMN *TLH 9 “O Day of Rest and Gladness”*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalm 18:1-2a, 18b-19, 27, 30a, 49*

The LORD was my support
in the day of my calamity.

He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

I love you, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.

For you save a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.

This God—his way is perfect;
the word of the LORD proves true.

For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,
and sing to your name.

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 Lord, since You never fail to help and govern those whom You nurture in Your steadfast fear and love, work in us a perpetual fear and love of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Proverbs 9:1-10*

¹ Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ² She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³ She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, ⁴“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks sense she says, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.” ⁷ Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will

hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 120:1-2*

In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips,
from a deceitful tongue.

EPISTLE *1 John 3:13-18*

¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 14:15-24*

¹⁵ When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ But he said to him, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.' ¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.' ²⁰ And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' ²² And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' ²³ And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'" (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *TLH 306 "Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast Prepared"*

SERMON

The world is our enemy. I'm not talking about the cosmos, the created realm, the universe that God created to sustain our physical lives. The world that hates us Christians is the fallen unbelieving people of the world. So, we often hear that the world, together with the devil and our own sinful nature, is our enemy. As St. John says in the epistle reading for today, "Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you." He goes on in the text to contrast the hatred of the world with the love of Christians. "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death." Interestingly, there is another contrast that John speaks of, that of life and death. Those who love have life, eternal life. Those who do not love, those who hate, are spiritually dead already. As John says, "Everyone who

hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” So, the world hates us as Christians, and we need to be aware of all of that this implies.

But, as I said in the sermon in the divine service last week, we Christians must guard against fear due to the increase of wickedness and evil in this world as the end of time approaches. Jesus says in Matthew 24:12-13, “Because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” We must stand firm to the end, not only in faith but also in love, not only by receiving Christ’s saving Word and Sacraments but also by serving others according to their needs. That is what John is getting at when he says, “By this we know love, that [Christ] laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” Christ died for us so that we would have eternal life, and we should be willing to give of all that we are and have, in some instances even our very lives, for the sake of our brothers. John seems to explain what is meant by “we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers” when he goes on to say, “if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” In other words, laying down our life for our brother is helping our brother in his need, physical needs to be sure, but also in his other needs including mental, emotional, and spiritual needs. We should not merely speak of loving others; God intends that we actually do it, and do it in truth. To love in actions and in truth means that we don’t help others out of selfish fear of punishment nor out of selfish hope for reward, but in self-giving love for the sake of the other person. We Christians can only love in actions and in truth by the power of the Holy Spirit working his love within us. If we give way to fear and lose our love, we drive the Holy Spirit from us; and without the Holy Spirit we lose faith in Christ.

So, how do we guard against our love growing cold and losing our faith in these end times? We do so by continually receiving the Holy Spirit through the saving gifts that Christ instituted for our forgiveness by his death and eternal life by his resurrection, namely, his Holy Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion. Through these gifts, the Holy Father continues to give us his Holy Spirit who continually draws us into Christ the Holy Son. And since Christ has overcome the sinful fallen world, together with the devil and our own sinful flesh, we Christians will overcome the world, the devil, and our own sinful nature. Luther says something to the effect that in this life by faith we rise above our neighbor and all the world to rule over them but in love we sink beneath our neighbor and all the world to serve them. In the end, we will be resurrected to reign with Christ on his heavenly throne forever in the glorious Kingdom of Heaven. Let us stand firm in both faith and love in Christ, to the end. 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 314 *“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”*

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 308 *“Invited, Lord, by Boundless Grace”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Micah 7:18-20; 1 Timothy 1:12-17;
Luke 15:1-10.

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