

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado
Family Devotion in Absence
Seventh Sunday after Trinity - July 26, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 819 “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalm 47:1-3, 6-8*

Clap your hands, all peoples!

Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

a great king over all the earth.

He subdued peoples under us,

and nations under our feet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises!

Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

For God is the King of all the earth;

sing praises with a psalm!

God reigns over the nations;

God sits on his holy throne.

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, whose never-failing providence orders all things both in heaven and earth, we humbly implore You to put away from us all hurtful things and to give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Genesis 2:7-17*

⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the

name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:11, 5*

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

EPISTLE *Romans 6:19-23*

¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 8:1-9*

¹ In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ² “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴ And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?” ⁵ And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶ And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷ And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹ And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 561 “The Tree of Life”*

SERMON

“Then the LORD God ... breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” God created us to breath freely. Without the breath of fresh air our lives are at risk, just look at what happened to George Floyd. Criminal or not, no one should die that way! Those of us who have had trouble breathing at any time in our lives due to an illness, lack of ventilation, or even anxiety know how necessary it is to breathe freely. For us as human beings, breath is the very foundation of life from God; and anything or anyone that unnecessarily hinders us from normal breathing is working against God’s life sustaining power for us in our physical lives. The devil, the unbelieving world, and our own sinful flesh not only seek to harm and

destroy our soul and human spirit, they seek to harm and destroy our physical lives as well. God the Father is not only the God of our redemption in Christ and our sanctification by the Holy Spirit working through the Word and Sacraments. God is our creator! He has created us with physical bodies in a physical world, a world and bodies that were created in the beginning to be very good. And our breath, every single breath we take, is a gift from God. God himself continues to breathe into our nostrils the breath of life so that we can continue to be living creatures.

Furthermore, God desires that we will have the eternal breath of life in our resurrected and glorified bodies in heaven and his new creation forever. Thus, after his own resurrection, Jesus breathed on his disciples and gave them his Holy Spirit. He established his Holy Ministry to provide the Gospel and Sacraments through which the Lord gives the Holy Spirit for our forgiveness and eternal life. When the Lord gives us his saving gifts – Word, Baptism, Absolution, and Communion – he is giving us the eternal breath of life that he breathed on his first New Testament ministers. In the divine service, we breathe in the Spiritual Breath of Life to sustain us in our eternal life that we have now by faith in Christ. And anything or anyone who hinders us from breathing this fresh air of the Gospel is either of the devil, or of the unbelievers of the world, or of our own sinful nature ... or of all three. God provides not only for our physical well being, but most importantly for our spiritual and eternal life. Although we will die in the flesh unless Jesus returns before then, we Christians will rise again in our bodies to live and breathe God's breath into our nostrils for all eternity.

Dear friends, I urge you and encourage you to continually receive the Word, Absolution, and Communion in the divine service. Trust not in masks nor men who hinder you from freely breathing both the physical and the eternal breath of life; but trust in God your heavenly Father who sustains you in both soul and body. He is the Great Physician who can and will heal all who believe in him. He heals and sustains you through his preached Word, which is emitted by physical breath. He has Baptized your body with water and the Word uttered in the breath and name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He continues to breath out his Holy Spirit upon and through the apostolic ministry by proclaiming his Absolution and forgiveness to you on account of Christ's death on the cross. He feeds your body and your soul with the Body and the Blood of Christ instituted by the declaration of Jesus' spoken Word. As Luther says of the Lord's Supper in the Large Catechism, "We must never regard the sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine which aids and quickens us in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body has benefited also." I pray that you will have such healing in body and soul through our Lord's saving gifts. 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 642 “O Living Bread from Heaven”*

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 631 “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Jeremiah 23:16-29; Romans 8:12-17; Matthew 7:15-23.

The liturgy is from *Lutheran Service Book* Copyright ©2006 and *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book* ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #14215.