

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Arvada, Colorado
Sunday Family Devotion in Absence
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity - September 27, 2020
The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)***

OPENING HYMN *TLH 517 "The Will of God Is Always Best"*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalm 86:1, 3, 5, 7, 12-13*

Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all the day.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
for you answer me.
I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
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, we pray that Your grace may always go before and follow after us, that we may continually be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *1 Kings 17:17-24*

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!" ¹⁹ And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?" ²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." ²² And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him

to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.”²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.” (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 102:15-16*

Nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.
For the LORD builds up Zion;
he appears in his glory.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 3:13-21*

¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:11-17*

¹¹ Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹² As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴ Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” ¹⁵ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” ¹⁷ And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *TLH 590 “In the Midst of Earthly Life”*

SERMON

There are at least two themes in all three of the readings for today. The first is that God loves. The second is that God is powerful. In the Old Testament and Gospel readings we see examples of how God loved the two widows and helped them by giving them back their sons. We also see that it was by the power of God that he showed his love for these women. God is so powerful that he can raise people from the dead. And he used his power to raise each of the women’s sons so that they would be helped, both on the day of the sons’ raising as well as for the rest of their lives. So, God is both loving and powerful.

This is good to believe and ponder, especially as we live in such a fearful time. It has been astounding to see how much Christian people have feared the corona virus. It is a bad virus, deadly even, for some. But we Christians know and believe that even if we catch the virus and die, that is not the end for us. We know and believe that our souls will depart to be with Christ in

heaven when our bodies die. We also know and believe that Christ will resurrect our bodies from the grave on the Last Day of this world. Only then, in our resurrected and glorified bodies will we live forever in the new heaven and the new earth where there will be no death. Unlike the two sons from the readings for today, who foreshadowed the eternal resurrection, we will rise from the dead to live forever. Only in the resurrection will there be no more viruses, diseases, suffering, or death. In this life, as Christians we prepare for and anticipate our bodily death. We believe in the love of God in Christ for our forgiveness and salvation of our souls. And we ponder the life giving power of God to raise our bodies from the dead on the Last Day. Believing in and pondering (thinking about) God's love and power helps to calm our fear of death.

So how does God show you personally his love and power? His love and power for you includes all that he provides for your body and life in this world. Most importantly, though, he loves you and empowers you through his Word and Sacraments. All of the saving acts of Christ, his perfect life that he lived for you on your behalf, his suffering and death in your place to pay for all of your sins, his bodily resurrection from the dead to give you eternal life and a new way of life, and his ascension into heaven to prepare a place there for you, are given to you through his Holy Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and Holy Communion. For through these holy gifts our lord gives you the Holy Spirit to forgive you, enliven your soul, and draw you into a communion relationship with the Heavenly Father in Christ his only-begotten Son. It's all God's doing by his great love and power shown to you and for you.

I pray that your Heavenly Father will cast out all of your fears, worries, and anxieties, replacing them with faith, hope, and love in Christ by his Holy Spirit. 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 597 "For Me to Live Is Jesus"

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 432 "In Hope My Soul, Redeemed to Bliss Unending"*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Proverbs 25:6-14;
Ephesians 4:1-6; Luke 14:1-11.

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