

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

Family Devotion in Absence

***Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 875 “Father, We Praise Thee”*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalms 66:1-2a, 17, 19-20; Isaiah 48:20b*

With a voice of singing, declare this with a shout of joy to the end of the earth. Alleluia.

The LORD has redeemed his servant Jacob! Alleluia.

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name.

I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.

But truly God has listened;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!

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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Numbers 21:4-9*

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it,

shall live.”⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. (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 *1 Timothy 2:1-6*

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 16:23-33*

²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵ “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” ²⁹ His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 766 “Our Father, Who from Heaven Above”*

SERMON

Impatience. As we struggle through difficult times like this – and this won’t be the last – we need to be careful that we do not lose our patience and end up blaspheming God for the hardship we are enduring. Remember, patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit that St. Paul names right after love, joy, and peace (Galatians 5). The ancient Israelites grew impatient in the wilderness after God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt, and their impatience led them to speak against God and against his servant, Moses. They questioned the reason why God brought them out of Egypt and they complained about the miraculous food that God supplied to them each day, the manna and quail. In their impatience, they sinned against God. God then punished them for their sins against him. He sent venomous snakes to bite the people so that many of them died. Once the punishment began, they realized that they had sinned against the Lord. So they

went to Moses, confessed their sins, and asked Moses to pray that God would take away the snakes from the people. Moses prayed for the people, but God did not take the snakes away. They had sinned against God; and God's punishment would remain. Why? Because God always punishes sin, in his own way, in his own time. All of this could have been avoided if the Israelites would not have been impatient and would not have spoken against the Lord and his provisions for them.

Although the punishment remained, and the Lord did not take the snakes away like they asked, he did provide a way for his people to be delivered from the deadly effect of the punishing snake bites. The Lord instructed Moses to make an image of a bronze venomous snake and place it on a pole; and Moses did so. Whenever anyone was bitten by a snake, he could look to the bronze serpent on the pole and the immediate punishment of death would be taken away. The bitten person looked to the image on the pole and lived! John uses this event in Israel's history to teach about faith in Christ. He says, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." The Israelites looked to the bronze serpent to have physical life, but whoever looks through the eyes of faith to Christ's atonement for sin on the cross has eternal life. Like the Israelites who were punished for their sins, so God punishes us for the sins we commit against him. But like the Israelites, we are delivered from the punishment of death, eternal death, because we believe that Christ suffered and died to pay for our sins. And, he rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life and new life in Christ. In this new and eternal life in Christ, we Baptized children of our Heavenly Father now receive our hardships as punishments and disciplines from him for our temporal and eternal benefit. Through continual acknowledgement and confession of our sins to God our Father, we increasingly learn to live by the Holy Spirit, whom we receive by faith through the Word and Sacraments, to work his fruits within us, the fruits of love, joy, peace, *patience*, kindness, trustworthiness, gentleness, goodness, and self control. By the Holy Spirit and his fruits in us, we grow in our relationship with God and with other people.

You have heard me repeat over and over again during the pandemic to keep focused on Christ. That is why. For all who keep their eyes focused on Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, have eternal life and will rise in the flesh to live forever in the heavenly presence of the Father, Son, and 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 *LSB 725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”*

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 477 “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 2 Kings 2:5-15; Acts 1:1-11;
Luke 24:44-53.

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