

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

Family Devotion in Absence

***Third Sunday after Trinity - June 28, 2020
Lutheran Service Book (LSB)***

OPENING HYMN *LSB 608 “Lord, to You I Make Confession”*

INVOCATION

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

INTROIT *Psalm 25:1-2a, 5b, 15, 16, 18, 20*

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
To you, O LORD I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame.
You are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
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 protector of all who trust in You, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy, multiply Your mercy on us that, with You as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

OLD TESTAMENT *Micah 7:18-20*

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰ You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old. (ESV)

GRADUAL *Psalm 55:22a, 16, 18a*

Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you.
I call to God, and the LORD will save me.
He redeems my soul in safety.

EPISTLE *1 Timothy 1:12-17*

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-10*

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (ESV)

SERMON HYMN *LSB 609 “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”*

SERMON

The theme of the three Scripture readings for today is about our Lord’s desire for us to have his forgiveness. This is not something new, it is what God has desired for us poor sinners since our first parents fell into sin after being tempted by the devil in the Garden of Eden at the beginning of time. There, the Lord promised to send the Seed of the woman to crush the head of that evil serpent. The grace and mercy of God has been seen in the way he has dealt with us sinful people throughout history. He continually restrained his wrath against the sin and defilement of the ancient Israelites, even instituting the divine service to daily cleanse them of their ritual impurities. Through the prophets, he promised to forgive iniquity and to remember sins no more. And in the Old Testament reading for today, the prophet Micah says, “Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins

into the depths of the sea.” The Lord is compassionate, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love ... as the Scripture says elsewhere. Still, all of the ritual purifications, the prophecies of the remission of sins, and the way that God dealt mercifully with his Old Testament people was based on what would happen in the future. It was rooted in the fact that the promised Seed of the woman, the Seed of Abraham, and the Seed of David would come one day to make atonement, make the payment that God requires for sin, by his death on the cross.

The promised Messiah, the Christ, has come and has made the payment for all of your sins, all of my sins, and the sins of all people. The death of Christ and his resurrection from the dead is the basis and reason for God’s willingness to forgive us, absolve us, and remit our sins. Christ made the payment for us! Now, we have forgiveness through repentance and faith in him. As Jesus says in the Gospel reading, “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” Again he says, “there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Christ made the payment that we owed to God for our sins; and we receive the forgiveness and eternal life that Christ won for us through repentance and faith. In the Lutheran Christian tradition, we define repentance chiefly as contrition and faith, being terrified by our sins then looking to Christ for relief from our terror. In the Old Testament, repentance means to turn around and walk in the opposite direction. In the New Testament, repentance has to do with a change of mind, which then directs our lives toward God in both faith and love. I think repentance involves all of these. The point, though, is that God desires to forgive us. And he has made his forgiveness available to us by the death and resurrection of Christ and by our repentance and faith in him.

But our repentance and faith are not something that is mustered up within us by our own strength or merits. Rather, the Holy Spirit works within us through the Word, Baptism, Absolution, and Communion to both bring us to repentance and faith in Christ and to keep us repentant and in Christ. That is why it is necessary for us to come to the divine service to receive the Gospel and Sacraments, for through these gifts that our Lord Jesus himself instituted for us, we receive the Holy Spirit again and again throughout our entire lives to keep us repentant and in our forgiveness in Christ. As helpful as family devotions are during times when we cannot come to church, they still do not take the place of the divine service. We want people to be healthy and safe, physically. More importantly, however, is being safe and saved from our sins and healthy, Spiritually. The Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word of God, just as he comes to us through the ongoing effects of our Baptism. He also comes to us for our repentance and faith through Holy Absolution and the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which are only received in the divine service. I implore you and encourage you to come to the divine service to receive the Holy Spirit and the salvation and forgiveness that he gives to you in all of his holy gifts. Furthermore, the Word and Sacraments not only bring forgiveness, but they offer God’s grace in specific ways and unique purposes. I like to think of the distinctions this way in part: the Word is our invitation to come to our Lord’s Banquet; Baptism and Absolution wash and clothe us with the proper attire; and Holy Communion is the Feast itself. In each of these distinct ways, the Holy Spirit gives us unique gifts that Christ instituted for us and our salvation. Through all of these, the Father has made and keeps you his royal sons and daughters to celebrate in his presence now by faith and forever in the glory of heaven. 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 628 “Your Table I Approach”*

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 864 “Shepherd of Tender Youth”*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 12:14-21; Luke 6:36-42.