



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, June 28, 2020

With Eyes Wide Open

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As We Gather

Without the truly good news of the Gospel we cannot see the hard truth that we and all people are poor sinners who deserve nothing but punishment from almighty God. It takes the Gospel to open our eyes wide to the severity of God's Law, which our Savior took on Himself in our stead. In Jeremiah's day, and our own, false prophets proclaim an easy peace that requires little change in our daily living. Now, as when Paul was writing, some people in the Church think the freedom Christ won for us can mean a disregard for God's Law. And when Jesus was calling disciples, He had to warn them (and us) that some of their own family members would actively oppose their following the Lord. But the Gospel announces what is real and good: God has kept all His promises in our Savior Jesus Christ. His death shows the enormity of the punishment we deserve, and His resurrection assures us of eternal life. Because our Lord gave His life for us, with eyes wide open we can lose ourselves in service to Him and with the psalmist "sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever" (Psalm 89:1).

Prelude & Welcome

Ringling of the Tower Bell

528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

sts. 1–4

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.
- 3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.
- 4 He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;
He sets the pris'ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean;
His blood avails for me.

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Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 89:15–18; antiphon: v. 1

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,

C who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face,

P who exult in Your name all the day

C and in Your righteousness are exalted.

P For You are the glory of their strength;

C by Your favor our horn is exalted.

P For our shield belongs to the Lord,

C our king to the Holy One of Israel.

**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.**

**I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

sts. 5–7

5 Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P *Let us pray.* Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 28:5–9

⁵Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Confession

- P** The Jewish people were in exile far from the Promised Land, a punishment for disobeying God, when Jeremiah confronted Hananiah.
- C** **And we are in exile between Eden and paradise, disobedient children of Adam, one and all.**
- P** People listened to the false promises of Hananiah.
- C** **We, too, are guilty of listening to the false promises of the devil. The truth is hard, and we are sorry. Forgive us.**

Psalm

Psalm 119:153–154

- P** Look on my affliction and deliver me,
- C** **for I do not forget Your law.**
- P** Plead my cause and redeem me;
- C** **give me life according to Your promise!**

Forgiveness

- P** Political peace came for Israel when God allowed Cyrus to let the people return, and eternal peace was made possible for us and all people when our Lord Jesus paid for all sin, offering Himself on the cross in our stead. For His sake you are forgiven. What is real by the grace of God is always good.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

sts. 1–2

- 1 What God ordains is always good:
His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed
In ev'ry need
Knows well how He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.
- 2 What God ordains is always good:
He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His righteous way,
And never will He leave me.
I take content
What He has sent;
His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.

Text: Public domain

Epistle

Romans 7:1–13

- L** Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released

from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

C **What then shall we say? That the law is sin?**

L By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. Apart from the law, sin lies dead. I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

C **Did that which is good, then, bring death to me?**

L By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Confession

P Paul here announces that our incorporation into the Body of Christ frees us from our captivity to the Law. That is why Paul points out that we cannot recognize sin without its being condemned in the Law.

C **Looking into the mirror of the Law, we recognize that we have become “sinful beyond measure.” The truth is hard, and we are sorry. Forgive us.**

Psalm

Psalm 119:155–156

P Salvation is far from the wicked,

C **for they do not seek Your statutes.**

P Great is your mercy, O Lord;

C **give me life according to Your just decrees.**

Forgiveness

P The severity of the Law, which ought to have been meted out against us, was poured out on our Lord on the cross. The freedom we have is to “bear fruit for God,” who raised Him from the dead. Because of Christ’s victory you are forgiven. What is real by the grace of God is always good.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

sts. 3–4

3 What God ordains is always good:

His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup
That my physician sends me.
My God is true;
Each morning new
I trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

4 What God ordains is always good:

He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm
Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know
Both joy and woe;
Someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.

Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:34–42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁴[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. ³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. ⁴¹The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Confession & Forgiveness

- P** Here our Lord makes clear the turmoil that following Him might entail. He calls us take up our crosses and even lose ourselves for His sake in order to find true life.
- C** **But we are sinful in every way, not always putting You first. The truth is hard, and we are sorry. Forgive us.**
- P** Our Lord grants us life according to His steadfast love and even rewards those who receive His imperfect followers. By the overflowing mercy of God you are forgiven. What is real by the grace of God is always good.
- C** **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

760 What God Ordains Is Always Good

sts. 5–6

- 5 What God ordains is always good:
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness,
I take it without shrinking.
For after grief
God gives relief,
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.
- 6 What God ordains is always good:
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm,
For with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

Text: Public domain

Sermon ‘Which Prophet to Believe?’

I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever

- 1 I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness;
With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness to all generations.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

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Offering Prayer

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Thanksgiving

P *Let us pray.* Almighty God, you have built your Church upon
the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself
being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in
unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy
temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

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Postlude

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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