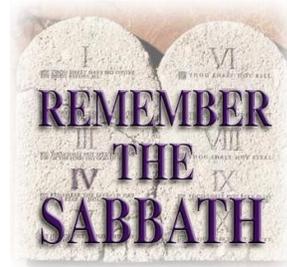




St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN



Sunday, July 5, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Introduction

Our Bible texts today touch on the underlying truth that Sabbath is God’s strategy for helping us remember that God is God (and we are not), and that we are human beings, made in God’s image for love and connection, (and not locked in a never-ending competition for worth and resources). Sabbath is a discipline that works best with the support of a community, and its benefits will be felt by the whole community. We keep our weekly sabbath, gathering for prayer and Bible study, songs of praise and petition, and fellowship with others. We gather to be refreshed by our Lord’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Gathered around God’s word in Jesus, we find rest for our souls.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please Stand)

Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #887 This Is My Song

1. *This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.*

This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. *My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.*

But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are ev’rywhere as blue as mine.

So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. *This is my prayer, O God of all earth’s kingdoms, your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.*

O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you, and hearts united learn to live as one.

So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you let your will be done.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: We begin in the gracious name of our Triune God – Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister and congregation gives thanks.

P: We give you thanks, O God,

C: for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden.

P: In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock.

C: When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

P: At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

C: and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

P: We praise you for your salvation through water,

C: for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

P: Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

C: Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise #880 O God beyond All Praising (verse 1&3)

*1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: Let us pray together:

C: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-2, 7-11

Part of the Ten Commandments, these verses instruct the Israelites to keep the Sabbath. God commanded a Sabbath because human beings need to spend unhurried time in worship and rest each week.

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) Pg. 216 Alleluia

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus frees people from the heavy burdens of sin and guilt, excessive demands, and weariness. The rest Jesus promises is love, healing, and peace with God. Such rest is not a ceasing from all effort, but a centering of our lives in God's love and purposes as given to us in Jesus.

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Hymn (cranberry) #888 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

1. *O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea*
2. *O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness and ev'ry gain divine.*
3. *O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law.*

Message

Remember

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (cranberry) #763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1. *My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.
~Refrain~
**No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***
2. *Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?
~Refrain~*
3. *What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.
~Refrain~*
4. *The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?
~Refrain~*

(Please Stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers of the People

Prayer Response: (cranberry) #751 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: com and listen to me.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's Peace)

(please be seated)

THANKSGIVING

Offering Invitation *(Spoken by Pastor John)*

(please stand until the end of service)

Stewardship Minute

P Thank you for our Virtual VBS leaders, for children and families, and for this opportunity to grow in faith and hope and love! Thank you, all of you, for your gifts of your love, your prayers, for your time and efforts to encourage our families and leaders, and financial offerings that make this and many other ministries possible!

Offering Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

on earth as it is heaven.

Give us today 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.

SENDING

Blessing

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen.

Sending Song (cranberry) #890 **Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory**

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: his truth is marching on.

~Refrain~

Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah!

Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

2. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;

He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat.

Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant my feet! Our God is marching on.

~Refrain~

3. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,

With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.

As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on.

~Refrain~

Sending

P: Go in peace, Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Al Tonn

Ushers: Myra Battenfeld, Kathy Zabel

Diane Blowers, Carol Tilney

Reader: Nadine Omans

Videographer: Gyles Randall

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering
their time and talents.**

