

Service of the Word – The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2020

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Roanoke, VA

PRELUDE: *Jesus, My Friend* – Philip Keveren

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.
Amen

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**Reconciling God,
we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.
Amen

GATHERING SONG: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

1. Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2. Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,
3. At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
4. Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we a - dore:

your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.
the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, one God for - ev - er - more.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks and sing!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹**LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰**All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.**

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²**that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-out all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴**The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew: 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

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.”

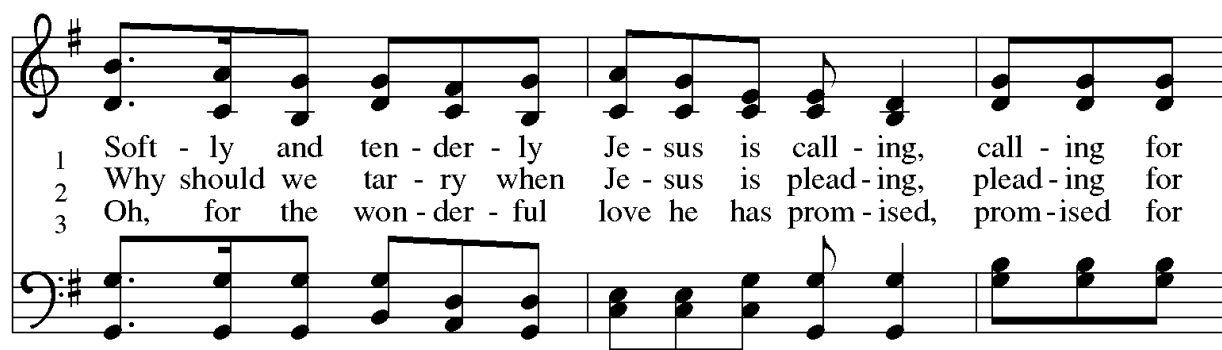
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

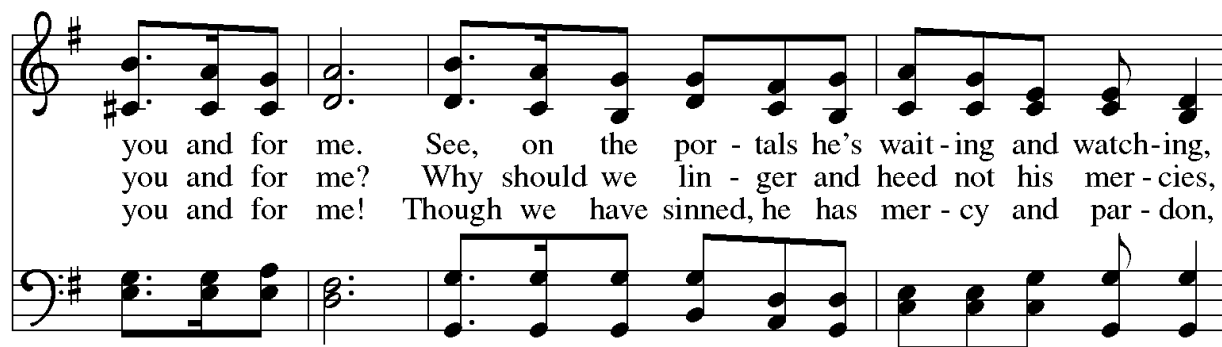
SERMON

(The service continues with the Hymn of the Day on the next page.)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Softly and Tenderly*

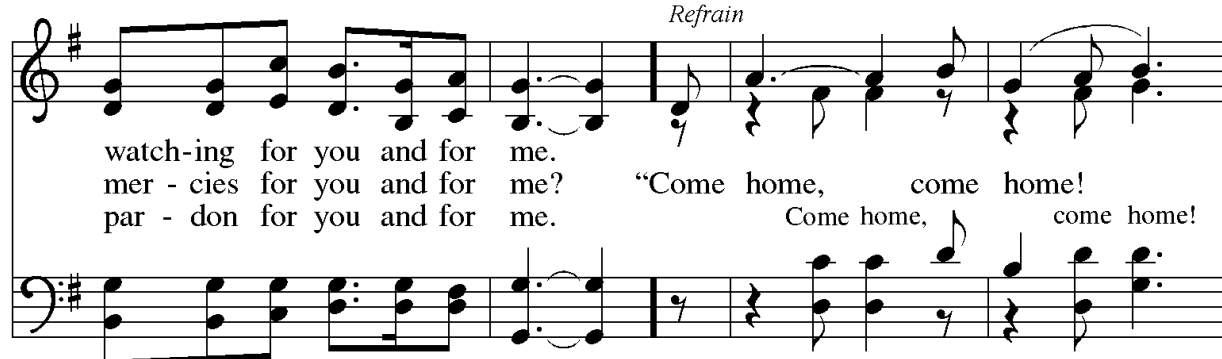


1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,


Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
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 INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. We pray for those who are ill, having surgery, or recovering: **Sean Kelly**. We pray for all those we name before you now.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this congregation. Bless worship and congregational leaders. Energize outreach ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who are working to maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Brynn Scozzari, soloist

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

- text by Horatius Bonar

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love,

we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,

and at the end bring all the world to your feast;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

PRAYER FOR OUR TIME

Let us pray.

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we continue to face uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us and our leaders as we consider how best to continue to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities.

Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

BLESSING

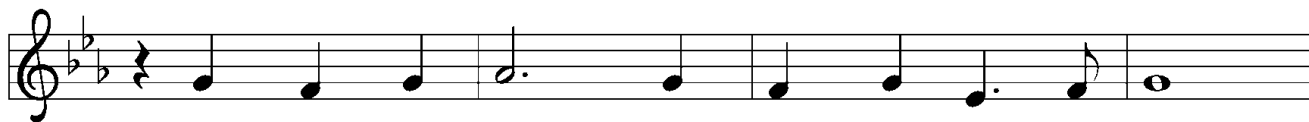
Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen

(The service concludes with the Sending Song on the next page.)

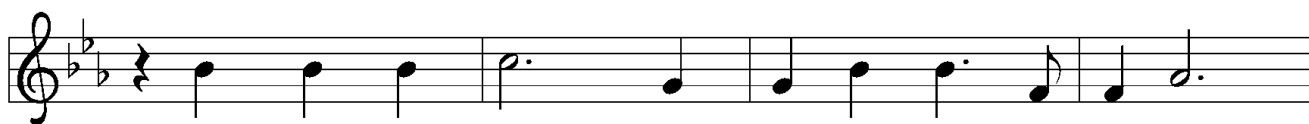
SENDING SONG: *This Is My Song*



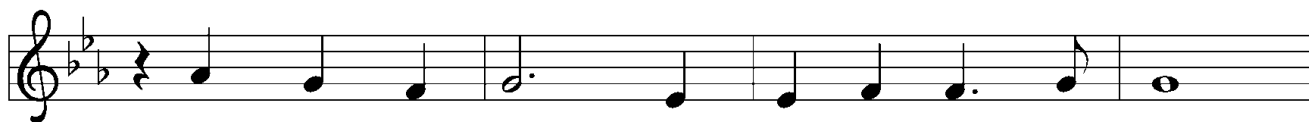
1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
 your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

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Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart – text: Edward Plumptre; music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter.

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Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling – text: Will L. Thompson.; music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson.

“Prayer for Our Time” is from *Prayers for Times of Public Health Concern: COVID-19/Coronavirus*,

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This Is My Song – text: Lloyd Stone, sts. 1-2; Georgia Harkness, st. 3; music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius. Text sts. 1-2

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