



Sunday, June 19, 2022

The Second Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

GATHERING

WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God,

we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD

Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed.

²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

²⁶Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

What Is Your Name?

There is in Cairo an eerie, demonic site, terrifying to the human soul. Far into the chaos and noise of the city that never slumbers, there is another city—"the city of the dead." A vast tangle of tombs and mausoleums that,

through the windows of tour buses, remains grim, distant, and quiet is, at close encounter, not a place of repose at all. It is a wretched, loud, busy, suffering place lived in by Cairo's least and lowliest.

But there is no need to travel to Egypt to see the grim scene. Cities of the dead are all around us, if we care to look—places where the condemned, dirtied, ridiculed, blamed, and broken spend their demonized days living as if dead in cells and wards, beneath plastic and cardboard, in rust and garbage, among decay and rot, forgotten and lonely. There, beyond our windows, so used to their own condemned life, the most they hope for is to be left alone. "I beg you, do not torment me" (Luke 8:28). "I beg you." The gospel says "beg"!

He'd had enough—the man could endure no more judgment, no more religious platitudes, no more being the topic of conversation, no more shame, no more chains and shackles. It was—it is—bad enough to be plagued by demons in the cities of the dead, so please, no more torment! I beg you.

"What is your name?" (v. 30). Those four beautiful words stun the ugliness on the hillside. "What is your name?" In that question there thunders a spoken truth: the desire to know, not ignore; to approach, not pass by; to dare, not cower.

"And they were afraid" (v. 35). Those four riddling words confuse the swinish hillside. In that spoken truth there is exposed a question: Afraid of what? Of knowing the banished one? Of approaching the wild one? Of daring to welcome the troubled one home?

What is your name? Legion? No: Child of God.

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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you. Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of the earth. Restore places where land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Guide us to develop and implement sources of energy and food production that do not destroy the earth. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, naked, hungry, and sick. Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness, that they can clearly recognize your loving presence. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father's Day. Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships. Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth this week:

Gene Kimmel

June Johnson

Doris Horning

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Save us from ourselves, from racism in all its hidden forms, from hollow words without actions, forgive us, renew us, call us to action God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For police officers and firefighters, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For all those who are dealing with the COVID-19 coronavirus around the world. Thankful for the vaccine, we ask your help in its distribution and continued production throughout the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For the people of Ukraine, grant protection as you lead them from war to peace. Guide leaders with your wisdom and turn their minds and hearts to what is possible, renewed peace in the future. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful departed whose lives proclaimed all you had done for them. At the last, unite us with them as we make our home in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.
Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for your support of our ministry.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
may the Lord smile upon you and be gracious to you,
may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. + Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

June 26, 2022

Third Sunday After Pentecost

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

Elijah says to Elisha, Follow me and do not continue plowing

Psalm 16

I have set the LORD always before me. (Ps. 16:8)

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Love is the whole law, gift of the Spirit

Luke 9:51-62

Jesus says, Follow me and do not look back

Upcoming Commemorations

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

John the Baptist

Friday, June 24, 2022

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

Saturday, June 25, 2022

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Saturday, June 25, 2022

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

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