



**Sunday, June 28, 2020**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A**

### **Introduction**

*The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.*

### **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 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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading: Romans 6:12-23**

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

12Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. 14For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

15What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

20When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 40“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41Whoever welcomes a prophet in the

name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **On Being Welcomed**

Jesus emphasizes many times that his disciples are his representatives in the world. When people encounter his followers, they encounter Jesus. This is a phenomenal calling that certainly points to God's grace in the lives of Jesus' followers. We couldn't possibly claim to be the presence of Jesus without the Spirit and God's grace poured on us in baptism.

One way the church helps people to know God in Jesus is by showing up, being present, engaging authentically with others. When Jesus sent his disciples out to witness to the kingdom in words and deeds, he sent them out not only to welcome others but to be welcomed.

In a time when many of our human encounters are mediated by electronic social networks and distant forms of communication, we might lose sight of what it means to welcome others and to be welcomed in homes, at meals, or in another person's place of worship. It can be humbling to allow another person to welcome us and to show us hospitality and grace.

When we allow others to welcome us in whatever way they do, we allow some encounter with Christ to occur. Perhaps it is meeting for coffee or going for a walk. Maybe it means going into another person's neighborhood that is new to us. Maybe it's receiving dinner as another prepares it, humbly or extravagantly, in their home, or as we join them at their favorite restaurant.

Have you ever been invited to someone's home or event and turned them down? You may have had good reason, or maybe you just didn't feel like going. What does it mean to allow others to welcome us into their lives by accepting their invitations? It is a blessing to them. It is also, as Jesus tells us, a welcoming of God who sent Jesus and us to show love by letting others show us hospitality.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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.

*A brief silence.*

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned (*especially*). Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

6/29 – Barry Mann

6/30 – Susannah Hoang

7/1 – Jim Nugent

7/2 – CathySue Anderson

7/3 – James Bowser

7/3 – John Swinney

7/4 – Al Hvidsten

enrich them with a sense of your joy and grace for yet another year. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Save us from ourselves, from racism, from white supremacy in all its hidden forms, from hollow words without actions, forgive us, renew us, call us to action. Grant wisdom, give us courage for the coming days. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those we know and love who serve in our military and their families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For our President, and all our elected officials, national, state and local. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For all those who are dealing with the COVID-19 coronavirus around the world: those who are infected, those caring for them, those trying to mitigate and manage the epidemic, and those who are living in fear of it. My God bless us all with healing and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died (*especially Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon*). Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. 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.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

*Please, remember that we depend on our offerings, even when there is on site worship service due to extreme circumstances.*

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

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

**Sunday, June 28, 2020**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

### **Peter and Paul, Apostles**

**Monday, June 29, 2020**

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

### **Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators** **Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

### **Thomas, Apostle**

**Friday, July 3, 2020**

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.