

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Belleville, PA



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 3, 2020

There will not be a radio broadcast this week, please use the service in this bulletin as you worship at home.

WELCOME

Welcome on this 9th Sunday after Pentecost. We gather with the continued awareness of the presence of a yet untamed virus and a commitment to everyone's continued safety and health. May the joy of joining together whether in God's house or your house sustain us through the coming weeks.

SILENT PRAYER

Generous God, the whole creation looks to you, and you give them their food in due season. Open your hand to us, and satisfy us with what we most deeply desire. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 55:1-5)

Leader: Anyone who thirsts, come and drink! If you have no money but you're hungry, come and receive wine and milk without a price tag.

People: Why do you spend money on what does not nourish you?

Why do you work for what does not nurture you?

Leader: One does not live by bread alone but by the word of God.

People: Listen carefully, come and eat healthy food that will delight you.

Leader: Come and partake in the Spirit that will give you life.

All: Become a witness of God's free gift of grace to all people.

God will raise you up, transform you, and make you shine!

HYMN of PRAISE ~ *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

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GREETING

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

CALL to CONFESSION

The promise of our faith is this: for all who call out in truth, God is near. Therefore, let us honestly confess our sin.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of justice and mercy, we admit that we are not always free of deceit. We are fooled by the false promises of the world into pursuing things that do not truly nourish us. Hear our cry and save us, dear God, in Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION of FORGIVENESS

Here is good news for everyone: God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love, and gives us forgiveness and grace. We do not have to earn it with sacrifice because it is a free gift from a generous God!

THE PEACE

Leader: Please extend the peace of Christ beyond the walls of our homes and sanctuary into the world.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **People: And also with you.**

GLORIA

Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever will be, world without end. Amen. Amen

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Providing God, by your Holy Spirit feed us with your Word, that we might be filled with the bread of life. Amen.

FIRST READING Romans 9:1-5

page 12

(building on last week's reading Romans 8:26-39)

SECOND READING Matthew 14:13-21

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GOSPEL READING ~ Matthew 14:13-21

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MESSAGE ~ *Praying With*

Today is the first Sunday of August 2020, and the news leads us to believe that, with the upsurge in Covid cases and continued unrest and divisiveness, this could be an 'awful' August. However, as I have prayed about where we are now and where we go from here two things have been put on my heart:

1. that we focus on prayer during this month and
2. that through our outreach and ministry we make this an 'Awesome August!'

Emperor Caesar Augustus, the name sake for this month, issued the census decree which brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem where God incarnate, Jesus Christ was born. The world has continued to be awestruck by this event. Augustus' reign was known for the awful practices of subjugation, persecution and mass crucifixion. Yet Christ's crucifixion soon put an end to this practice, and the resurrection and promise of grace and salvation has continued to be a source of awe, reverence and joy.

As we engage in exploring prayer this month let us always begin with this reverence, this praise, this awe and this joy and share this with others.

Last week's reading from 1 Kings asks "What do we pray for?, Who do we pray for?" When Solomon asked God for wisdom he was praying for himself but not just for himself, for the people he would be serving as well. What do we pray for and who do we hope this prayer will benefit? Our prayers may benefit ourselves, others we know and have benefits beyond what we can imagine.

Romans 8 and 9 ask the questions we may often ask ourselves: 'Do we even know how to pray?' These verses ask not only 'Who do we pray for?' but 'Who will help us?'

Paul answers: "*The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.*" (Romans 8:26)

Verses 27 tell us God helps us: *God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

So the Holy Spirit is with us, the triune God is there with us, the Messiah who is over all is with us. We are not a sole figure kneeling at the bedside at night, if we're arthritis free enough to do that. We are not a sole figure in our living room closing our eyes for a moment of prayer when we feel, as in Romans 9:2: "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart." How many of us, when a friend asks 'How are you?' would answer with these words? Yet, sometimes in grief, in worry we do feel this way.

We can remember though, we are with forces far greater than the sensation of the hard floor on our knees, or the rising choking feeling of tears in our chest. We are not alone in prayer.

How do we pray? We begin with this truth: within the power of the Holy Trinity is everything we need to pray to, to pray with and to pray for us. We pray with thanksgiving for life and creation, we pray with supplication for healing and wisdom so that we may serve God's creation, we pray with awesome appreciation for being made children of God through Christ.

The river of prayer is always there for us to enter in. We may begin at any time - any second or minute of our day. We may find our self brought to prayer at a random moment, a moment of thanksgiving, or of remembrance of loss, or a sense of need, or experience of pain or an experience of joy during our day.

Please remember, during this awesome month of August to pray, even if for a moment, for yourself, for others and for the world. Then reach out to others with a testimony, a gesture of caring and comfort, an expression of beauty and joy. The powers you pray with will do the rest.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

In awe of all God has done and will do in us during this month. Amen.

Pastor Ela Robertson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRAYERS of INTERSESSION *from the Celebrate*

We are on a journey of becoming and do not fully know how to pray. Yet the Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Therefore, let us offer our prayers, confident that the Spirit prays in us according to God's will.

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all who we encounter. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift now anything we hold silent in our hearts, prayers "of great and unceasing anguish" as well of prayers of great thanksgiving and joy for all you give us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions

We pray for all those friends and loved ones our congregants pray for who are undergoing surgery and life threatening illnesses that your healing balm may be with them. We pray for those who have lost loved ones that amidst grief they may rejoice that through your salvation and resurrection they may know eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift to you prayers for our 17004 community and all communities where COVID is on the rise. Healing God we pray that the symptoms of those we know be mild and pass quickly. We pray that they, with your wisdom, will care for themselves well as they protect the health of others. We pray that all will 'be kind' and live in your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Time of Silent Prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION to the OFFERING

God has been generous in providing for our needs. Let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us.

SHARING OUR GIFTS (your offerings may be dropped off at or mailed into the church office, or submitted electronically from your online banking.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

Loving and generous God, you provide for us and even bless us in more ways than we can number. We give these tithes and offerings to tell of your wondrous and steadfast love so that those who do not yet know you may also come to your love. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

SENDING

HYMN ~ How Great Thou Art

page 10-11

CHARGE: Go out now and be a witness in all that you say and do, spreading the good news that God's grace is a free gift that requires no money or price.

BLESSING: May the Lord Bless you and keep you, May God be gracious to you and give you peace, now and forevermore.

C Amen

POSTLUDE

AT HOME DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Questions for Reflection: Question for Reflection ~ The disciples were amazed at Jesus' feeding of the multitudes. How have you seen him make a way when there was no way?

Household Prayer Morning: Holy One, as I walk through this new day, help me to see each experience as an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be your servant and a chance to help Jesus feed those in need, guided by your steadfast love for me. Amen.

Household Prayer Evening: Evening Gracious God, thank you for being with me throughout this day. As night falls, I give this day back to you, trusting in you and in your unearned gift of grace to give me peace and rest, for you are just in all your ways and kind in all your doings. Amen."

Portions of the liturgy are drawn from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2: by Kimberly Bracken Long and from the Celebrate for August 2 from Augsburg Fortress.

Pastor: Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

Church Office: 935-2032 **Email us at** stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Day Care: 935-2959

Please remember in prayer ~ Kim Aumiller, Ev Young, Samantha Smith, our members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Carol Yoder, Diddy Cleck, Betty Smith; Memory Lane ~ Nancy Aumiller and sister, Sally Shingler.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the last week of this month and first week in September. The following food donations are needed. **Please contact the church office (2032) or Sue Lynch (935-2013) if you can help in this way.**

Tuesday, August 25 ~ 5 dozen cookies (any kind), 1 seedless watermelon, 2 cantaloupes
(Please have the watermelon and cantaloupe cut into pieces)

Thursday, August 27 ~ Money to purchase pies (mail/drop off at church)

Tuesday, September 1 ~ 5 9x13 pans of Cherry (any flavor) Delight or Lemon Lush

Thursday, September 3 ~ 5 dozen Whoopie Pies (purchased locally or homemade)
Applesauce (fresh or canned/frozen from last year)

The daycare yard sale is being held this Tuesday, August 4, Noon – 7:00pm and Wednesday, August 5, 8:00am-Noon. All donations must be dropped off by Noon on Monday. Thank you!

The daycare board recently hired Lisa Lingle of Reedsville as the new director. Below is a short letter of introduction. Please pray for her, the staff and children as they navigate through these, challenging, uncertain and ever-changing times we are in.

Greetings, St. John's families!

My name is Lisa Lingle and I am the new Director for the daycare and preschool. I am honored and excited to be a part of the St. John's family!

Just a bit about me:

I grew up in a suburb of Chicago and moved to Pennsylvania when I was in high school. Shortly after earning a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Bloomsburg University, my husband and I settled in this area of PA and I was employed as a substitute teacher in several of the local school districts. I then had the privilege of staying home with my children, but during that time I also held a part-time position as one of the directors of the children's department in my church. When the Lord called our family to change churches, He led us to Calvary Bible Church where I immediately became involved in the Awana program. After serving as a leader for several years, I took over as the director of the program and have served in that role for the past 8 years. During that time, I was also blessed to be able to home school my children through their elementary years.

I look forward to working with the children and their families, and I am committed to upholding the high-quality, Christ-centered early education and care environment to which St. John's is dedicated.

Notes from the Pastor:

Pastor Ela is primarily working from home. Following the pattern of other pastors whose congregants have experienced Covid she will be limiting contact as much as possible for the next two weeks. If you need to speak to Pastor Ela, you may call her at 740-338-7123.

Congregants have been asked to express what form of worship outreach they prefer when we cannot meet in the sanctuary. This could include facebook, radio, curbside visits, parking lot church or other ideas you have. Please submit your feedback to your Good Shepherd or the pastor by August 7. We will try to find solutions that are workable for both churches and for the pastor. By September, we may combine these in a way that will serve both those at home and those who wish to gather.

Prayer: During the month of August I will be focusing on prayer 'For, With, and To' and also on messages in our favorite hymns. I encourage everyone to pray to God in thanksgiving for the life and creation we are able to enjoy, to pray for compassion beyond boundaries for all who are suffering and to pray with the light of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit with you.

Home Blessings: For those of us choosing to stay home rather than go out on Sundays our home has become our sanctuary. *Home Blessings will be postponed for now.* However as soon as feasible I hope to offer a curbside visit and a short service for a Blessing of a Home for all who request it.

Cards: Cards, candy, flowers and food continue to be a great uplift to those home bound and a visible reminder of the prayers and encouragement we offer. Thank you to those who are reaching out in that way. I know those at Valley View especially have been uplifted by this.

Challenges, Controversies & Encouragement: We are a church that embraces differences - in everything from opinions to hair styles and beard lengths. When we feel uncomfortable with what we hear in church, particular words, songs or messages. We are being challenged to explore differences and hear beyond our present circumstances to the heart of Gods message for us and beyond us. When, as some of you do, you let the pastor know how you are feeling we can explore this further together and be encouraged in unity in Christ.

There will be a Blood drive with Covid antibody testing. The Amish clinic is sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, August 10th at Locust Grove Mennonite Church that will also involve testing for COVID antibodies so that blood donated by be beneficial to those struggling with COVID.

Just a reminder...beginning August 10th, the window service hours at the Belleville Post office will be Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. (closed for lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.) and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 noon.

There will be an outdoor worship service on Sunday, August 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at Camp Mt. Luther, sponsored by the Buffalo Valley Conference. We will celebrate the ministry we share as a synod at the camp. Bring lawn chairs and be prepared to practice social distancing as we worship outdoors. Park at the Evergreen Center and staff will guide you to our worship site. An offering will be received that will help defray the cost of hiring the staff for their three weeks of camp.
Perhaps a group of St. Johns folks would like to go?

Offering for 7/26/20 ~ \$ 1,585.00, Attendance ~ 25
Last week's service cancelled

St. John's ~ January thru July 30
Income \$ 145,018.01 Expense \$ 120,712.41
Net Income \$ 24,305.60

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 13,953.72

Daycare ~ January thru July 30
YTD Income ~ \$ 113,452.10 YTD Expense ~ \$ 101,347.37
Net Income \$ 12,104.73

Shine, Jesus, Shine

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Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

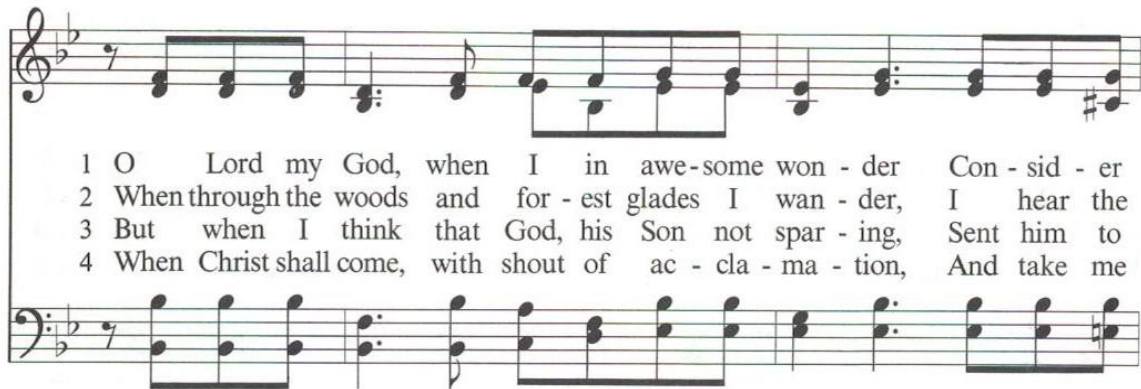
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark-ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

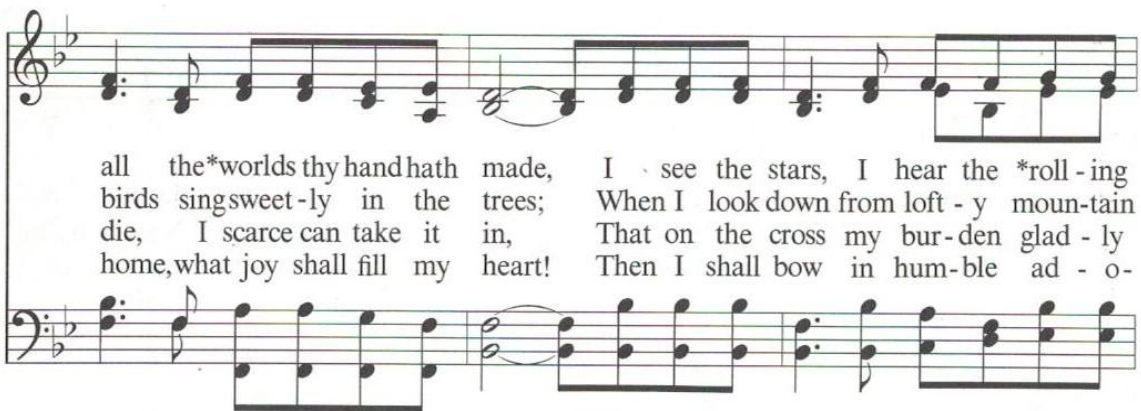
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

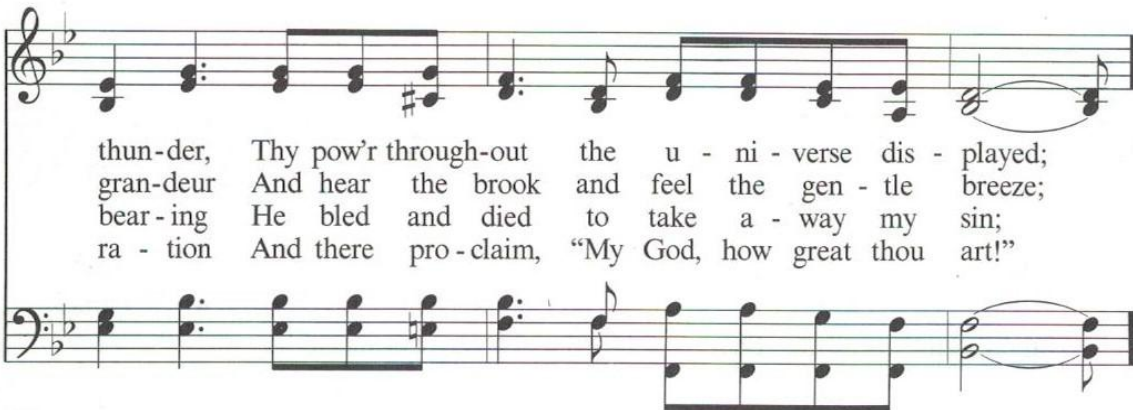
Shine on on me, shine on on me:
Shine on on me, shine on on me:



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, And take me



all the *worlds thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the *roll - ing
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, How great thou

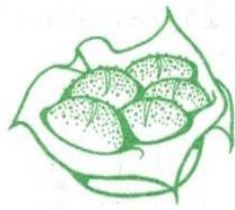
Continued on next page

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

This musical system consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It contains a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a half note followed by a quarter note at the end. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the notes.

thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

This musical system also consists of two staves in the same key signature and clefs as the first system. The melody in the upper staff continues with eighth and sixteenth notes, ending with a half note. The lower staff provides a corresponding harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the staves, aligned with the notes.



Celebrate

Sunday, August 2, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

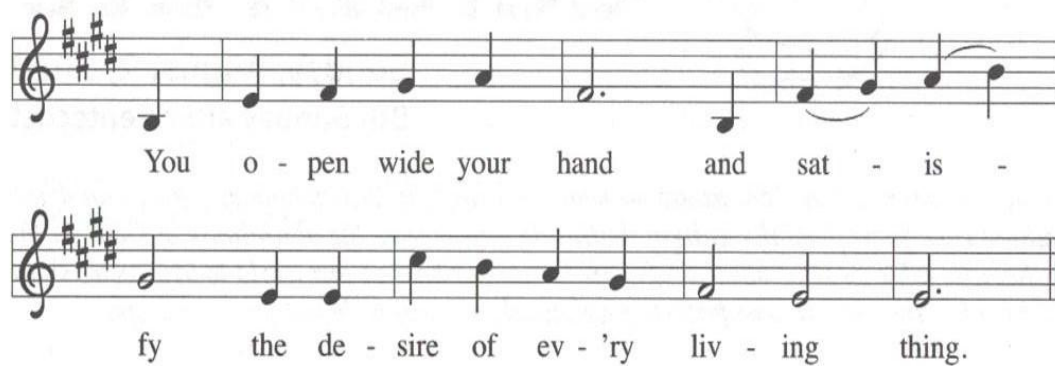
First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for
that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does
not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what
is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting
covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the
peoples,
a leader and commander for the
peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you
do not know,
and nations that do not know you
shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the
Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.



The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works. R**

¹⁴The LORD upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon ¹ you, O LORD,
and you give them their food ¹ in due season.**

¹⁶You open ¹ wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every ¹ living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in ¹ all your ways
and loving in ¹ all your works. R**

¹⁸You are near to all who ¹ call upon you,
to all who call up- ¹ on you faithfully.

¹⁹**You fulfill the desire of ¹ those who fear you;
you hear their ¹ cry and save them.**

²⁰You watch over all ¹ those who love you,
but all the wicked you ¹ shall destroy.

²¹**My mouth shall speak the praise ¹ of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- ¹ er and ever. R**

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation (*local needs may be named*). Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness, that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation (*name*) such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29. **Tuesday** Acts 2:37-47. **Wednesday** Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35. **Thursday** Psalm 85:8-13. **Friday** Acts 18:24-28. **Saturday** (commemoration of Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers [Dominicans], died 1221) 1 Kings 18:41-46. **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost** 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.

CELEBRATE August 2, 2020 (Lectionary 18)

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