



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Where tradition and inclusivity meet.



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOBOKEN, NJ



Divine Worship
Pentecost V
July 5, 2020

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Introduction

The mystery of God’s ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God’s mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ’s invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary.” Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.

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 gives thanks.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image and
planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
You give us water for the cleansing of our hands so that we
may love our neighbor as you command.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Salutation - *II Corinthians*

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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of

God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Rejoice 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.

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

⁸The 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. R**

¹⁰All 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,**

¹²that 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.**

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

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things

we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

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!

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

[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.”

Meditation

Reflection

There are images for our times and an image for ourselves in the first two readings today. “Waterless pits,” “battle bows,” and “waterless pits for prisoners” may be archaic, but they can stand for the very real violent conflict in our world today and for our own sense of current imprisonment.

And with Paul, we too are not able to do the good we wish we could do. Who will deliver us? Thanks be to God, indeed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For us, Jesus is the humble one who by the cross brings hope, release, and peace. Jesus welcomes us sinners. Even if we are not wise, Jesus shows us who God is. And Jesus gives us rest. By the power of the Spirit, baptism into Christ draws us into learning from him and carrying his yoke: we, too, will seek to live out of peace and give rest to our neighbors.

Hymn: #580 How Clear Is Our Vocation



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
 and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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Prayers

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

John Weakland (Brian Weakland's Father)

Zoia "Charlie" Foster (Pastor's niece)

Lacey Burton (Friend of Oberndorf family)

The Family of Sean Gustwiller (Friends of Courtney Kochuba)

The Family of Charles Powers (Friend of the Meusel family, Covid19)

The Family of Richard Altomare (Our neighbor)

The Family of Francis Ng (Friends of the Stolls, Covid19)

The Family of Amy Brekke (Friends of Pastor)

The Family of Arthur Jusu-Davies (Member of our congregation, Covid19)

Lorenzo Bevilaque at the death of his mother.

Gary LeCroy, Sr. recovering from surgery.

The Rev. Tom and Janice Kildea, and their children James and Jenny, at the death by suicide of their oldest son and brother, **Amani**, , we also hold in prayer **the congregation of Redeemer, Succasunna**, where Pastor Kildea serves.

Whether alone or with a small group, let us join together to pray to God, our stronghold, for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with the phrase **“in mercy, receive our prayer.”** We pray for the church around the globe. Where Christians are assembling for worship, protect them from viral infection. Where Christians are worshiping with print and screen, grant them steadfastness in your word. Strengthen those believers who doubt your goodness. Bless pastors, deacons, and committee members as they serve our congregations in this difficult time. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Grant renewal to the air, the waters, and the lands. Save the animals whose natural habitat is threatened by climate change or human carelessness, and direct us toward sustainable living. Preserve the fields of Kenya from locusts. Nourish our country's green spaces. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations. Keep the world from war. Pave the way for just elections. Protect citizens from the designs of autocratic rulers. Uphold our courts. Guide our national and state governments in finding ways to redress the wrongs of racism and to ensure equality for all. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick and suffering. Console the fearful, feed the hungry, house the homeless, shelter the run-aways. Heal the many who are newly afflicted with the coronavirus, and guide researchers in discovering a vaccine. Visit the sick whom we name here: O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for infants and young children, that they be carefully tended. We pray for teens, that they keep patience throughout the contagion. We pray for school boards, that they find solutions for the fall semester. We pray for the unemployed, that they find jobs. We pray for medical workers, that they remain healthy. We pray for the aged, especially those in care facilities, that they find companionship in your presence. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:

in mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray finally for ourselves. Show us that the yoke of faith is easy; may we find our rest in you. Hear now our private petitions. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially the martyr Jan Hus and the monk Benedict of Nursia. Comfort all who mourn their dead, and at the end, bring us and all your people into your eternal rest. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion:
in mercy, receive our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, for the sake of him who bore the heavy yoke for us, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

**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.**

Announcements

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.

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415) Psalm 131. Tuesday Jeremiah 28:10-17. Wednesday Jeremiah 13:1-11. Thursday Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13. Friday Romans 15:14-21. Saturday (commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540) Isaiah 52:1-6. Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (commemoration of Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931) Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

[Daily Prayer Resources](#) are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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