

L. Y. N.

Love Your Neighbor

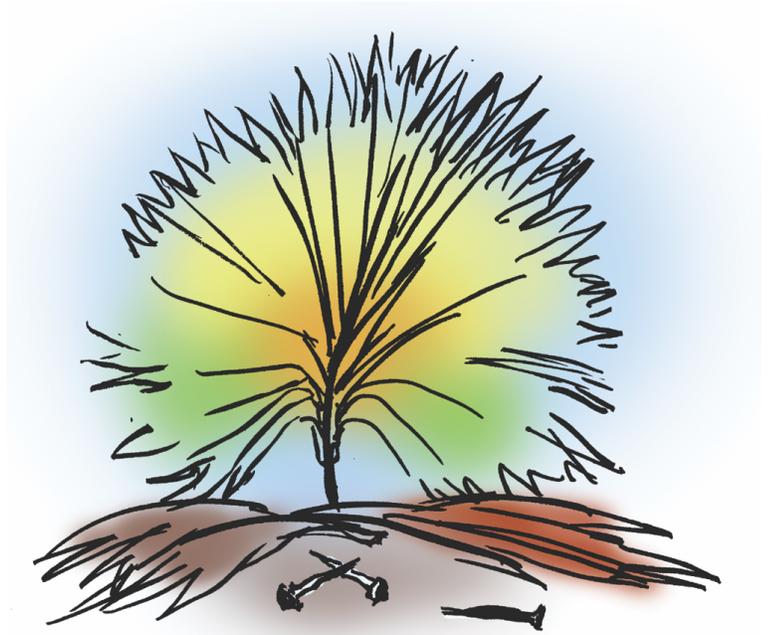
Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Respect space!

Divine Worship

Pentecost XIII

SMT Parish

August 30, 2020



Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul

when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Welcome

Prelude *Trumpet Voluntary* Thomas Pavlechko

Thanksgiving for the Word

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

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

Amen.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:
we praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

We bless you, O God, for your Word:
we bless you, O God, for your Word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath —
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.

Apostolic Greeting *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

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the
sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of
obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."



O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my
persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you, says the Lord.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

**Image: Jeremiah Michelangelo Buonarroti, Cappella Sistina. Vatican 1511*

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and | have not faltered.

²**Test me, O | Lord, and try me;
examine my heart | and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.

⁴**I have not sat | with the worthless,
nor do I consort with | the deceitful. R**

⁵I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession | round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.

⁸**Lord, I love the house in | which you dwell
and the place where your glo- | ry abides. R**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will

heap burning coals on their heads.”²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

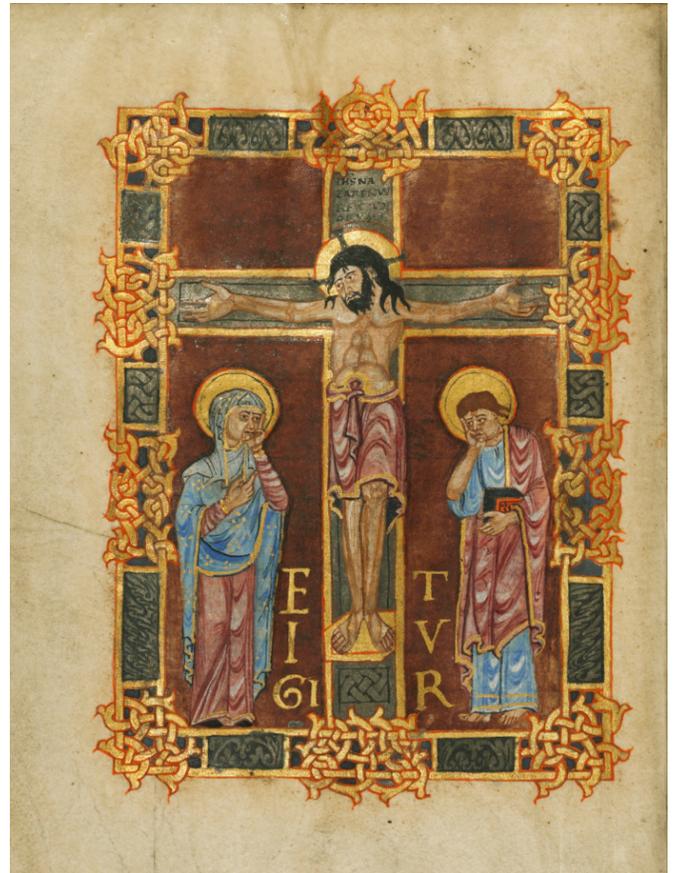
Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes | of our hearts,* so that we may know the hope to which | God has called us. *Alleluia.* (Eph. 1:17, 18)

Gospel: Matthew 16

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”



*** Image: The Crucifixion, first quarter of 11th century, Tempera colors, gold, silver, and ink on parchment The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. Ludwig.**

Meditation – Pastor LeCroy

Reflection

We would often like to think that having faith in God should lead to an easy life. Jeremiah discovered the opposite. And in Matthew's Gospel, Peter made a God-given confession last Sunday but this Sunday he opposes Jesus by arguing for that easy life. Still, what is it to "take up our cross?" This is not a call to invent new sufferings nor to think we will save ourselves nor to counsel other people to put up with injustice. Rather, we need to tell the truth about how the world is full of suffering and see that in sharing our sufferings and death, God in Christ saves us all and shows us a way to walk behind him. Paul gives detail to that way: taking no vengeance; associating with people who are considered lowly; weeping with those who weep; not claiming to be wiser than we are; persevering in prayer; rejoicing in hope — those are some of the traits of the way of the cross for us. In ordinary times we were able to be strengthened for this humble way by receiving the gift of Christ's life-giving cross in the holy communion. But now, in this time of waiting, we can still gladly join Jeremiah in eating — trusting and taking deeply into our lives— the words we read.

Hymn

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake



1 “Come, fol - low me,” the Sav - ior spake, “all in my way a -
 2 “I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
 3 “I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul’s sal -
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your - selves, the world for - sake, o -
 play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
 va - tion; from ev - ’ry guile your heart I free, from
 point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
 keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 suf - f’ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e’er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide.”
 well I show how you should so - journ here be - low.”
 of the soul and lead you to your heav’n - ly goal.”
 bat - tle’s strain the crown of heav’n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.

Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, 1555–1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586–1630

Prayers of Intercession

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- The family and friends of **Johnny Cortes** (LTM guest)
- **Bill Goffi** (Shelter Church pianist)
- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- **Carol and Donna** (friends of Leslie Neve)
- **Zoia “Charlie” Foster** (Pastor’s niece)
- The Family of **Sean Gustwiller** (friends of Courtney Kochuba)
- **Pastor Tom and Janice Kildea, and their children James and Jenny**, at the death by suicide of their oldest son and brother, **Amani**, and the congregation of **Redeemer, Succasunna**.
- **John Weakland** (Brian Weakland’s Father)
- **Dida Hagen** (friend of MIndy R recently diagnosed with lung cancer.
- **Joanne Krayner**, (Joel's cousin).
- **Those in our community lost to Covid19: Gilberto and Janet Diaz-Granados** (friends of pastor), **Francis Ng** (friend of Dan Stoll) **Charles Powers** (friend of the Meusel family) **Rosa Reyes** (funeral by our parish), **Richard Altomare** (friend of our neighborhood), **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (funeral by our parish), **Dawn Ennis** (sister-in-law of Pamela Pater-Ennis) **Arthur Jusu-Davies** (member) and **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral by our parish).

As we gather separately and together in the Spirit, let us pray for the needs of the world, responding to each petition with the words, “In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.”

Caring for the church around the world, we pray —
for a spirit of ecumenical cooperation,
for the health of congregations during this difficult time,
for our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. . .
Hear us, God our Savior;
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

Seeing before us your good creation, we pray —
for the repair of what we have harmed,
for polar ice,
for lands dealing with oppressive heat,
for fields ravaged by storms and fires. . .
Hear us, God our Creator:
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

Facing so many international problems we pray —
for the strengthening of democracies,
for peaceful resolutions to conflicts,
for the people of Belarus, Lebanon, and Yemen,
for researchers seeking a vaccine,
for racial justice within our nation,
for our legislators to assist the lives of the poor,
for an ethical election campaign. . .
Hear us, God our mighty Fortress;
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

Surrounded by people with great and hidden need we pray —
for families frightened by the uncertain future,
for those whose homes have burned down,
for students deprived of effective education,
for refugees and for prisoners. . .
Hear us, God our Hope,
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

Aware of all who are sick and suffering we pray —
for all who are facing the coronavirus,
for those without medical care,
for those we remember here before you. . .
Hear us, God our Healer;
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

Confident of your love for us, we pray also for ourselves:

A period of silence.

Hear us, God our Friend;
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

Mindful of all who have gone before us in the faith, we offer our thanks —
for all the saints famous and forgotten,
for medical workers who have died of the virus,
for friends and family we have loved,
for the promise of everlasting life with you. . .
Hear us, God our Homeland;
In your steadfast love, receive our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer
these prayers to you; through 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.**

Or

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Announcements

Check out our newsletter each week for announcements about:

- Bible Study
- Outdoor in-Person Worship
- SMT Center opening
- LTM and the StreEatery
- Contributions to honor People and Events
- Offering Now

[OFFERING: Online Giving SMT](#)

[Weekly Email Newsletter](#)

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. Love your neighbor as yourself.
Thanks be to God.

Readings for the Week:

- **Monday** Psalm 17.
- **Tuesday** Revelation 3:7-13.
- **Wednesday** Jeremiah 17:5-18.
- **Thursday** Psalm 119:33-40.
- **Friday** Romans 10:15b-21.
- **Saturday** Ezekiel 33:1-6.
- **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Ezekiel 33:77-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

Commemorations

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872
Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

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

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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