

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
July 10, 2022

Introduction to the Day

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Gathering Hymn "All Are Welcome"

#641 vs. 1,3,5

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

We hear this exact same question asked in other Gospels.

"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

This is the question that the Lawyer in Luke 10 asks, and it is the same question the Rich Man in Mark 10 asks. It is a very inward concerned question, asked of a preacher/teacher (Jesus) who is very outwardly concerned.

"What must I do for me to inherit eternal life for myself?"

In Mark 10, Jesus answer is less gentle than it is here in Luke. In Mark Jesus tells the Rich Man that he must sell everything that he has and give it to the poor. The Rich Man, of course, has much and this answer is very difficult for him to hear. "And he went away grieving."

In Luke, Jesus flips this question back to the Lawyer. "You know the laws, what do they say?" The Lawyer recites them perfectly. "Love God with heart, soul, mind, body, and strength, and love neighbor as self."

Great! "You've given the right answer. Do this, and you will live."

But the Lawyer wants more. He wants his way of living justified. "And who is my neighbor." He is curious. He knows what the laws say, but he wants to know what they mean.

So, Jesus tells a story. A story we all know very well. The Good Samaritan.

There is a man beaten and left to die. A priest comes by, sees him, and passes by on the other side. One justification for this, if you will, is that the priest was a man of great status, and surely there would be someone below him who would do such work as helping a beaten man on the side of the road. Another justification is that because he is a priest, he is seen as pure, and to help a beaten half dead man on the side of the road would make him impure. Okay. Those both sound more like excuses.

The next man, a Levite (which is of the lineage of Levi – particularly the branch that would have found themselves in the Temple as assistants to the priests), does the same thing. He sees the man and passes by on the other side. Though not of the elevated status of a priest, there is surely someone below him that would do such work.

Finally, a Samaritan comes along. Quick refresher: Two Sundays ago our Gospel text had James and John asking Jesus if they should command fire to come down and consume the Samaritan village that did not welcome him. This disdain for Samaritans would be fresh in the people’s minds. Especially in the minds of the first century hearers of this Word.

No matter the background (and perhaps because of that background is why we see Jesus use the Samaritan as the example) it is the Samaritan who helps the half dead beaten man on the side of the road. He bandages his wounds. Gives him transport to an inn. Pays for his stay. And promises the inn keeper that he will recoup any cost for the continued care when he returns.

“Which of these three is the neighbor to this man?”

Notice. Jesus does not give the Lawyer the answer. He gives him a story. He paints him a picture. But he doesn’t say, flat out, this is what I want you to know. Jesus wants to see if the Lawyer gets it.

“The one who showed him mercy.”

It is easy for us in stories like these, in the parables that Jesus uses, to point fingers at different characters and tell ourselves to not be like them. We can do it here, too. Don’t be like the Priest and the Levite when you see a problem that needs addressing. Don’t worry about the approval you’ll need from church council or city governance, go and be a part of the solution.

We want to point fingers at the Lawyer, telling ourselves that we would never be so concerned with ourselves and our eternal life that we would ask such a question. But, the truth is, we do. Often.

But Jesus uses him. Jesus uses the Lawyer. He gives him power. Yes, it may have been a test to see if he actually comprehended all that Jesus said, but Jesus uses him.

Jesus doesn’t give him a straight answer to “who is my neighbor.” Instead, he paints a picture to make him realize that to discover who your neighbor is, is to help them.

We so often want to throw labels, excuses, and thoughts and prayers at the problems we see in our world. We so often want to point fingers at problems and determine who is responsible for fixing them, when Jesus here is telling us to “go and do likewise” as the Samaritan did showing mercy to the beaten man.

In a world where are seemingly inundated with the next problem that needs fixing on a daily basis, we are confronted by a Gospel text that calls us to do something. It urges us to ask, amid the chaos of this world, who is my neighbor? Where can I help? What problem can I help address?

And, what excuse must I lay aside?

Our prayer of the day for today speaks painfully beautifully to the world we find ourselves living in:

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Song of the Day

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

#712 vs. 1,2,4

The 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 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.

Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the heart of your church. Fill your church with compassion, that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You created the earth with seeds sprouting up to new life. We pray for the flourishing of fruit trees and orchards, vines and bushes. Prosper the work of those who plant, tend, harvest, and gather. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Come near to all in need. Orchestrate kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, comfort where there is death, and healing in illness (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided (*local outreach ministries may be named*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints who revealed your love and mercy in this life. Inspired by their witness, strengthen us to live in hope. 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

Please see the graphic at the end of the worship packet for a snapshot of our current finances. We had good months in both May and June that have cut our gap roughly in half. However, July is going to be a larger month for expenses and we now have a better idea of what that will look like. Please prayerfully consider a Bridge the Gap gift to your church today!

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Words of Institution**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 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

Communion**Prayer**

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

#836 vs. 1,3

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Financial Snapshot

January - June

Total Revenue **\$149,629**

Total Expenses **\$158,038**

How is the gap looking?

\$16,277 THROUGH APRIL

\$8,443 THROUGH MAY

\$8,409 THROUGH JUNE

July Projection

2022 avg monthly expenses: **\$26,340**

Last 4 July Expenses: **\$25,400**

Expected this July: **\$28,808**

Expenses as of July 6: **\$6,967**

What will it take?

Giving as of July 6: **\$5,500**

We need to duplicate that for the remaining 4 Sundays to get close.

But, would still need more.