

Facebook Live Worship Outline

Pentecost 17 - 27 September 2020

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #520

Dearest Jesus, At Your Word

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

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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.

C: **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Praise the Lord who is our provider!
C: **The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.**

P: God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.
C: **The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.**

P: Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.
C: **The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out your spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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WORD

FIRST READING

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord. Reading from Paul's Letter to the church in Philippi, the 2nd chapter:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and

trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:1-13

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12) Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple. This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Matthew 21:23-32

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #712 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;

consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

- 2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.
- 4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words “Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.”

A brief silence.

Throughout the globe is the church: many assemblies are postponed by the virus, our songs quieted, our leaders searching for new ways forward. *A brief silence.* That you will continue to inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ, we pray to you, faithful God. **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. *A brief silence.* That you will preserve and protect the earth, we pray to you, mighty God:
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. *A brief silence.* That you will save the people in all the nations of the world, we pray to you, compassionate God:
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

In our nation's courts, we see justice delayed and justice denied. *A brief silence.* That you will uphold honest judges and insightful juries throughout our criminal justice system, we pray to you, righteous God:
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Around us are the sick: there is starvation, the virus continues, many persons receive no medical attention, our neighbours and dear ones are ill. In this season of Pentecost we pray for: Ferolyn, Jordan, Pat, Carol, Beryl, Elethia, Pat and for all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts. *A brief silence.* That you will bless all ministries of care and will relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, we pray to you, merciful God.
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Nearby are needs of which we are unaware. *A brief silence.* That you will send your holy angels to uphold all who face personal troubles, we pray to you, benevolent God:
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Inside many hearts there is both joy and sorrow. We pray now for ourselves:
A longer period of silence.
That you will give us new hearts and a new spirit, we pray to you, loving God.
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness. *A brief silence.* That we may confess Jesus Christ as Lord through our life and at our death, we pray to you, eternal God.
Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.

The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. *Repeat*

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. *Repeat*

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
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Then conclude with these prayers:

P: 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.
Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.

Blessing

P: Touched, changed, called and empowered,
go now in the power and provision of Christ to heal the sick,
feed the hungry, and serve the world.

God the creator, Jesus ✝ the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 28.

Tuesday (Michael and All Angels) Revelation 12:7-12.

Wednesday (commemoration of Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420) Judges 16:23-31.

Thursday Psalm 80:7-15.

Friday Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a.

Saturday Jeremiah 6:1-10.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (commemoration of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226; Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864) Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.