

The Days of Pentecost
“Lessons in Forgiveness”
September 13, 2020
9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE “Suite for Solo Cello No. 1 in G major by J.S. Bach . . Matthew Dudzik, Cello
1. Prelude
2. Allemande

WELCOME Pastor Michael P. Dorn

OPENING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” LSB 803

All: Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

Ensemble: *All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.*

All: Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** the name of the Lord is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*
- P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. *Psalm 84:10*
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord. *Psalm 25:4*
- C** Teach me Your paths.
- P** Sanctify us in Your truth.
- C** Your Word is truth. *John 17:17*

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised. *Psalm 113:3*

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING. Genesis 50:15-21

R The Old Testament Reading is from the 50th Chapter of Genesis.

R ¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (ESV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS—PART I

P God brings about good, even from the tragic circumstance when Joseph was sold into slavery. Let us confess our fears when evil situations overwhelm us.

C **We confess, Lord God, that we have failed to recognize that You sustain us and bring about good in the midst of evil. We are sometimes stymied at the violent attacks of nineteen years ago and our ability to understand religious extremists and other terrorist groups. We readily forget Your promises. Strengthen our faith; forgive our weaknesses; restore hope and joy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

P Even the execution of Jesus on the cross, has meant eternal blessings from our gracious God. Satan could claim no victory, even at the death of Jesus. God, in Christ does not forget His promise for abundant life including victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

R The Epistle Reading is from the 14th Chapter of Romans.

R ¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. (ESV)

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS—PART II

P St. Paul chastised people in the Early Church for judging one another for eating or abstaining, for observing special holidays or not.

C **We confess that we have unjustly diminished our brothers and sisters in Christ who differ from us by considering them foolish or worse. We have forgotten to look beyond externals to their inner baptismal faith in our one Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Open our arms, heavenly Father, to embrace them; forgive our judging hearts; and restore within us a vision for the one true Church in heaven and earth.**

P Every person with faith in Christ belongs to Him! He has purchased us all with His blood, forgiving every one of us. He has not forgotten you! Therefore, as His servant I announce His forgiveness to you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE LSB 156

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P ²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (ESV)

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS—PART III

- P** Jesus has forgiven all our sins—great and small.
- C** We confess that we have failed to fathom the greatness of God’s mercy. We have not freely forgiven the people who have sinned against us. We have thought their faults to be greater than our own, and forgotten that we are totally reliant on God’s grace for our salvation. Forgive us, gracious Lord, and give us new and contrite hearts; fill us with Your love divine.
- P** God’s grace is boundless and eternal, freely available for you to share! He has not forgotten you! May God, who began this good work in you, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Go in peace.
- C** Amen. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Matt Meier

MESSAGE.....Pastor Michael P. Dorn

CONFESSION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

(Offerings may be submitted online to www.trinitydt.org, by mail to Trinity Downtown, 800 Houston Ave., Houston, TX 77007 or dropped off at the office, M-F, 8:30 - 2:30.)

MUSICAL OFFERING. “My Song in the Night” by Terre Johnson Ensemble

*O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul’s delight.
Unto Thee O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night.
O why should I wander, an alien from Thee,
Or cry in the desert Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul’s delight,
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.*

Interlude

*O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul’s delight.
My comfort and joy, my soul’s delight,
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.
O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night.*

PRAYERS

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTIUTION

☩ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

COMMUNION HYMN “Amazing Grace” LSB 744, vs. 1-3

Solo: *Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!*

Ensemble: *The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.*

Interlude

All: Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God” LSB 895

All: Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Ensemble: *Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessèd peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!*

Interlude

All: All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” Carla Barrows
by Sigfried Karg-Elert, edited by Diane Bish

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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“Now Thank We All Our God” - Text and music: Public domain

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Divine Service, Setting 1 from Lutheran Service Book

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