

July 6

BREAD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE: RISKY TRUTH

Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite." *Isaiah 57:15*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The earth is the Lord's for he made it: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Psalm - 100

¹ **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.**

² **Serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

³ **Know that the LORD is God.**

It is he who made us, and we are his;^[a]
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

⁵ For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Mantra Prayer

I see God in the eyes of my neighbor when I get close enough to serve them.

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reflection

Rejoice! We have been set free! Even in circumstances where freedom seems to be a fleeting concept. Even in situations where just the word *freedom* seems to taunt us. But the truth is that we have been set free by the events at the cross. Through Jesus, we are given access to the incredible reality that every day, the kingdom of God is slipping into this world.

Freedom is risky inside just like it is outside.

When the scribe asked Jesus about the commandments, it was meant to be a trick. The scribe wanted to ensnare Jesus in an argument about the laws of Moses and to highlight the laws that the Pharisees were convinced Jesus wasn’t following. (In Jesus’ time, the Pharisees were a religious group who strictly observed the Law and Jewish

ceremonies.) You see, the idea of loving neighbor, period, was a radical idea then, just like it is now.

Love is risky in a place where love is considered a weakness.

Think about it: If you started to build a community based on this principle of loving neighbor, could it stand up to the pressure of present circumstances? Is this a pie-in-the-sky idea, a nice target to aim for in life, but never really hit? Or is it a way of living that could radically change the atmosphere around us?

The truth is risky in a place where lies are the everyday currency.

The truth is that the love of God is only ever seen by the world around us in the way we love our neighbor. There is no exclusion clause to this, no certain kind of neighbor to love. God's love is spilled out on everyone regardless of their race, age, sexual identity, gender identity, or what they have done up until the moment you are reading this and even beyond. That's the amazing thing about the power of God's love: it is limitless. A passionate love affair with God is a passionate love affair with the vulnerable in your community.

A Quote to Ponder

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. –C. S. Lewis³⁶

A Question to Wonder About

What's at risk if you try to love your neighbor here? What's at risk if you don't?

9 The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce, Deus* *Isaiah 12:2-6*

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *

and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

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 for ever. Amen.

Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. **We praise your name for ever.**
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. **Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. **For we put our trust in you.**
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Collect of the Day

God of love, reveal yourself in my community. No community is perfect, and not every neighbor is like me, but in that incredible exchange of your love and my service to others, through relationship building, I get to walk in your kingdom. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your

mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.***

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14