

Liturgy for May 17

The Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Worship – Lamentations 3:20-25

My soul continually remembers my affliction and is bowed down within me.
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”
The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Song: O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Confession of Faith – Apostles Creed

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We 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.**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 63:15-64:12

- ¹⁵ Look down from heaven and see, from your holy and beautiful habitation.
Where are your zeal and your might?
The stirring of your inner parts and your compassion are held back from me.
- ¹⁶ For you are our Father,
though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us;
you, O LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.

- 17 O LORD, why do you make us wander from your ways
and harden our heart, so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
- 18 Your holy people held possession for a little while;
our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.
- 19 We have become like those over whom you have never ruled,
like those who are not called by your name.
- 64 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- 3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- 4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
- 5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
- 6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- 7 There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
- 8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
- 9 Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.
- 10 Your holy cities have become a wilderness;
Zion has become a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation.
- 11 Our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you,
has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins.
- 12 Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD?
Will you keep silent, and afflict us so terribly?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: “We Sinned”

Confession: Silent Prayer, Followed by Song (Psalm 51)

Good News of the Gospel (from Isaiah 1)

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

In Christ, your sins are washed away. In the eyes of God, you are pure.

Thanks be to God!

Announcements and Benediction

Household Time of Prayer

Instructions: after the livestream is finished, select one person in the group to be the person identified as “celebrant.” He or she will be the one reading the print that is not bold. Everyone else is invited to join in where the print is bold.

Celebrant: In the midst of suffering, God invites us to be defiantly joyful.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth!

Let us worship the LORD with gladness; and come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

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

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

Let us give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.¹

Prayers

O God, whose kingdom rules over all, grant grace, wisdom, and courage to leaders. You made us to be a responsible people, stewards of your creation. You charged us with conserving and developing your world. We pray for all who have responsibility for others – whether in government or home, business or education, spiritual or relational. Let each one look to you and receive what is given him or her, humbling themselves before your mighty hand and casting their cares on you as you care for them. Make them courageous, wholehearted, and selflessly devoted to the common good, that in them we might see a hint of your faithful, love in Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, as we stay at home, we pray for our neighbors. You are the Father of the entire human community and look with compassion on all you have made. You call us to look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others. Make us noticers of names and needs. Break down the walls that separate and divide us. Forgive us for hoarding when we could be sharing, fearing when we

¹ Adapted from Psalm 100

could be loving, hating when we could be forgiving. Let us see you, Jesus Christ, reflected in our neighbors. Enable us to love them as you have loved us, that they might know your grace and gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you came as a doctor to the sick. We pray that you would care for those who are already sick or struggling with long-term illnesses or challenges. Lord, to be already weak, at risk, or compromised when facing further infection is frightening. Guard their hearts with your peace. Give wisdom to families, friends, and caregivers to best protect and preserve the health of those they love. Grant patience and grace to each as they deal with daily updates, new challenges, or discouraging shortages. May your grace be evident to all in your nearness and in our calm and confidence in you, even as we look to a better country and an unshakable hope beyond the measure of this life and these days.²

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, you see us and look upon us with compassion. We think specifically of those in our two congregations who are grieving over the loss of loved ones, and those who are sick, and those without work. In the midst of these difficulties, we ask that you would strengthen them with the awareness of your love and your faithfulness. We ask that you would use this hard time in their lives to grow them closer to you. We also ask these things for all of us. Father, please help us to be receptive to whatever you are teaching us, however you are training us in this extraordinary time.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guided by your Son, we conclude with the words he taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen**

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, you belong to Christ and are children of God.

God will never leave or forsake you. Go now in peace.

To love and serve the Lord.

² Adapted from prayers by Andy Cornett