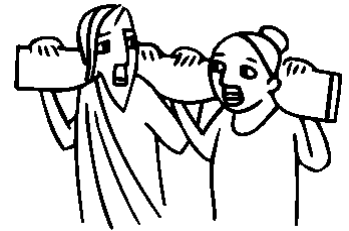


Worship from Home

A resource provided by First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rush City, MN



5th Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Though we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness, we gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word and meal, we find rest for our souls. This service is supplemented with an online video uploaded by Wednesday on our church's YouTube Channel.

Gathering Song "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

9Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
10He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
11As for you also,
because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
12Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalms 145:8-14

8The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.
9**Lord, you are | good to all,
and your compassion
is over | all your works.**

10All your works shall praise | you, O Lord,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.
11**They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom
and speak | of your power,**
12that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.
13**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your
dominion endures through- | out all ages.**
**You, Lord, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in | all your works.**
14The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] **16**"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,
17"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'
18For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; **19**the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."
25At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; **26**yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. **27**All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
28"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29**Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Sermon

A sermon is provided for the online service. You may also consider this reflection.

There are images for our times and an image for ourselves in the first two readings today. "War horses," "battle bows," and "waterless pits for prisoners" may be archaic, but they can stand for the very real violent conflict in our world today and for our own sense of current imprisonment. And with Paul, we too are not able to do the good we wish we could do. Who will deliver us? Thanks be to God, indeed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For us, Jesus is the humble one who by the cross brings hope, release, and peace. Jesus welcomes us sinners. Even if we are not wise, Jesus shows us who God is. And Jesus gives us rest. By the power of the Spirit, baptism into Christ draws us into learning from him and carrying his yoke: we, too, will seek to live out of peace and give rest to our neighbors.

Song of the Day "Day by Day"

Prayers of Intercession

In your own words, pray individually or as a family group for the needs below.

For the church throughout the world, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel

For the well-being of creation

For peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community where we live

For the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, and lonely

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit

For the congregation, and for special concerns

For anyone or anything else on our hearts

Thanksgiving for the faithful departed, especially those who have recently died.

The prayers conclude with the 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.**

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Devotional Music Links

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress:

["What a Friend We Have in Jesus"](#)

["O God of Light"](#)

["Lord We Praise You."](#)

Readings for the Week

Monday Psalm 131.

Tuesday Jeremiah 28:10-17.

Wednesday Jeremiah 13:1-11.

Thursday Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13.

Friday Romans 15:14-21.

Saturday Isaiah 52:1-6.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13;

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13;

Romans 8:1-11;

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

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Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait 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.
 Music: LIEBSE JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882
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Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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