

Sunday, July 24, 2022 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING SONG

"All Are Welcome"

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

One day [Jesus] was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." So he said, "When you pray, say,

Father, Reveal who you are. Set the world right.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil."

Then he said, "Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don't have a thing on hand.' The friend answers from his bed, 'Don't bother me. The door's locked; my children are all down for the night; I can't get up to give you anything.'"

"But let me tell you, even if he won't get up because he's a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need.

"Here's what I'm saying: Ask and you'll get; Seek and you'll find; Knock and the door will open.

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your little boy asks

for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" ELW 752

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

A Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers, lakes, and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources, especially during times of drought, and strengthen those who defend them. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world, especially in Somalia and Ukraine. Inspire all authorities to govern with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who hunger, give bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer (*especially*). Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless our outreach and fellowship ministries, especially our Food Truck event and VBS program. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

C Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

"Lamb of God"

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SENDING SONG

"For By Grace You Have Been Saved"

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