

Order of Service, Sunday June 27, 2021
5th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, OR



Welcome Rev. Wally Gustav
And thank you for leading us in Worship!

Welcome Greeting

Acclamation

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson ~ A Reading from the Book of 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag.

David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said:

Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!
How the mighty have fallen!
Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor bounteous fields!
For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more.

From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,

the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
nor the sword of Saul return empty.

Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!
In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson, in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel?

How the mighty have fallen
in the midst of the battle!

Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.
I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.

How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People
- *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

The Second Lesson ~ A Reading from 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

As you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you-- so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your

sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter, I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something-- now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has-- not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

“The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

- Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People
- *Thanks be to God*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, According to Mark 5:21-43

Glory to you, Lord Christ

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

- This is the Gospel of the Lord
- Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

“Circles of Love”

The Rev. Walter Gustav

Let us pray. . . . Gracious God, we thank you for revealing to all people your perfect peace and your powerful presence in many and various ways. Open our hearts and hands so that we may be ready and willing to share with all people all of your many gifts of grace. Bless us now in this time and let the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable offerings to you, O Lord our strength and our redeemer. **Amen**

A long time ago, in a far-away country, the citizens were breathing a big, collective sigh of relief. Two days earlier, the enemy had surrendered. With this surrender the war had ended. It was a costly war that had claimed so many lives and crippled so many soldiers and destroyed the livelihoods of so many citizens. In the town center, the president stood before the crowd. Before she could begin her speech, someone in the crowd yelled – Madam President - What are you going to do with all the rebels that caused so much death and destruction. In response, the crowd quickly answered in cadence with a simple chant – hang them, hang them, hang them. The president held up her hands. When the crowd was quiet, the president emphatically said – we will never hang them; instead, we will always hang on to them. The president’s circle was wide enough and long enough to include everyone – the hurting persons from the victorious country and from the down trodden persons that were defeated in this terrible war.

The Good News for today is very similar. God’ circle of love is wide enough and long enough to include everyone. In our Gospel reading for today, Jesus is greeted by a large crowd of people. And in the middle of this large crowd is one individual – Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. Jairus falls at Jesus feet and begs him repeatedly to heal his daughter who is at the point of death. So Jesus goes with Jairus to his home. Jesus’ circle of love was wide enough and long enough to include everyone – even Jairus who was just one single person among the many people in a crowd.

And on the way to Jairus’ home another encounter happens. In the middle of this same large crowd, an unnamed, ceremonially unclean woman approaches Jesus. With the demands of the crowd and Jairus’ daughter being at the point of death, Jesus stops. He takes time for this ill woman. So many demands and Jesus takes time for one individual. Jesus’ circle of love was wide enough and long enough to include everyone – even an unnamed woman who had been ill for twelve years.

Many, many years ago, Ray Stevens recorded a song with very memorable and familiar words. For some people these words were quite radical. Perhaps, some of us may remember them. Stevens sang in the 1960’s – red and yellow, black and white; all are precious in his sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world.” Ray Stevens’ message was crystal clear – Jesus loves everyone. In other words, Jesus’ love is wide enough and long enough to include everyone. Christ’s loves is for all of us – tall and short, rich and poor, male and female, those who have hair and those who are bald, skinny and fat, straight and gay and transgender, young and old. Christ loves everyone.

But how do you and I act? Sometimes it's very embarrassing to think about what separates us as people. Sometimes this separation can occur between family members who disagree about a certain idea or a particular value. Sometimes this separation can happen between neighbors or people with whom we work. As an interim pastor, I have experienced this separation that happens between people who attend the same church. In our sinfulness, you and I draw circles that include some people and exclude others. Tragically, we build walls that separate us from each other.

This inclusion and exclusion is a symptom of our sinful hearts. Our sinful hearts do not remember the width and length of God's unconditional love. It's definitely easier to be in a group that only includes people who think like we do. It's so much more comfortable to be in a group that is like minded or has a set of values which are similar to our own.

Drawing circles that exclude and include is wrong. Building walls between people is sinful. These construction projects do not allow us to look outward and look upward to God's love for all people. Therefore, we are not able to celebrate God's circle of love that is wide enough and long enough to include everyone. Instead, these sins look inward at me, myself, and I. One pastor describes this inward gaze as belly button polishing. We focus on my ideas, my values, my priorities. Belly Button Polishing is obviously not helpful or healthy. Or as the well know phrase says so well – People wrapped up in themselves make very small packages.

Nineteen hundred years ago, the apostle John wrote these words in His Gospel. Many of us know these words from John 3:16 for memory. John wrote, "For God so loved – the world – that he gave His only Son. God loved the world – not just the people that think like I do; not just the people who have the same values or priorities that I do; not just the people in our congregation or our community; not just the people in the USA. And the personification of God's inclusive love is the crucified and risen Christ. On the cross, Christ stretched out His arms to include you and me and everyone. As the risen Christ, He opens His arms so that His love is wide enough and long enough to include everyone.

Today, Christ is looking for each of us to follow His example. Our call and our challenge is to extend our arms and to open our hands and to open our hearts to all persons – to the young and old, rich and poor, tall short, black and white and brown, to males and females, gay, straight and transgender. We share our love with everyone. Christ invites all of us to share with all persons His gifts of grace – love and forgiveness, goodness and kindness, patience and peace, acceptance and understanding. We strive to put the best construction on people's words and actions. Christ invites us to remember how we are created – we are created with one tongue and twice as many ears. Therefore, we listen and we listen and we listen and the share a few words of kindness and honesty.

During this past week, I read an instructive poem that was written by another pastor. She says – "They drew a circle that left me out; heretic, rebel a thing to flout; but love and I had the wit to win; we drew a circle that took them in." So go out and draw a circle – draw a circle of love that is wide enough and long enough to include everyone. In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People, Form I

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "*Lord, have mercy.*"

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop Diana, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President Joe, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city of Lebanon, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, in the air and through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those on our prayer list and those we name silently or aloud, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially Steve Babjar and Ken Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of the blessed Mary and Martin and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.**

Absolution

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

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,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for St. Martin's

God of Love,
open our eyes and ears to perceive you at work
in creation, the church, and our parish.
Fill our hearts with your love
that we may reach out in love to others.
Stir up our imagination with your Holy Spirit
that we may find new ways to live into life with you.
Give us a vision of your mission
that we may share your love and your spirit
in all the places where we work and play and worship you.
In Jesus' holy name, **Amen.**

Blessings

Dismissal: **Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord,**
Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia