

The FOURTH Sunday after PENTECOST, 2020

28 June 2020

In "Virtual Grace"

Organ Prelude -

"Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old"

Hymnal 1982 #567

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hello and welcome to "Virtual Grace"
from Grace Episcopal Church in Honesdale, PA,
on this 4th Sunday in "Ordinary Time."

I'm Fr. Ed, the rector of our parish.

We are grateful to all who have walked "Virtual Grace" these many weeks
and we offer thanksgiving that we can now open our doors for worship -
sadly, still with limitations and regulations for the safety of all.
For that reason, we are glad to continue offering these video services.

If you are in any pastoral need at all, call me, 24/7.

I am more than ready to come to your spiritual aid and visit you -
as you will hear in my Meditation.

We are grateful for those who have been able to make your sacrifices
in offerings and contributions.

If you are able, help us to continue the various ministries of Grace Church
through your gifts, remembering those in need around our community.

Come now, and let us bless the Lord together.

In the name of God the Creator, ✚ God the Sustainer, God who Sanctifies. Amen.

CONFESSIO

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.

May Almighty God in mercy receive our confession of sorrow and of faith,
strengthen us in all goodness, ☩ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us
in eternal life. Amen.

Join with me, as you are able, in offering God praise.

CANTICLE *The First Song of Isaiah* (Isaiah 12:2-6) BCP p.86

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.

Let us pray:

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*

FIRST READING

Romans 6: 12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Here ends the Reading.

PSALM 89: 1-4, 15-18

- ¹ Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; *
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- ² For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- ³ "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- ⁴ "I will establish your line for ever, *
and preserve your throne for all generations."'
- ¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout! *
they walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.
- ¹⁶ They rejoice daily in your Name; *
they are jubilant in your righteousness.
- ¹⁷ For you are the glory of their strength, *
and by your favor our might is exalted.
- ¹⁸ Truly, the Lord is our ruler; *
the Holy One of Israel is our King.

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

Sit SECOND READING

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. Just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day."

Jesus answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from

this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Here ends the Reading

CANTICLE

Magna et Mirabilis (Revelation 15: 3-4)

BCP p. 94

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done,
surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,

and sing the praises of your Name?

for you only are the holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you,

because your just and holy works have been revealed.

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.

MEDITATION

“CALL ME - I’LL CALL YOU”

Hospitality in the midst of Mission -

The theme of the regular Gospel reading for today.

But as we are reading Evening and Morning Prayer these days,

I opted for the set of readings for the Daily Office.

The healing by Jesus of an ancient woman.

What strikes me first of all that this story

and the more familiar story of the hemorrhaging woman who cries in her heart,

“If I but touch the hem of his cloak, I will be healed.”

Neither of these stories of Jesus healing a woman

is brought to our hearts in the three years of Sunday readings.

Forgotten, or ignored, women.

To make it worse,

most commentators and preachers would pick up primarily on the fact,
that the Rabbi confronts Jesus for breaking the Sabbath Law,
as is done several times elsewhere in the Gospels.

I question which is more important -

the Sabbath or a poor woman's need for healing and comfort.

These days, Sabbath Laws aren't an issue - even as I preached *Rest* last Sunday:
none of us observe the Sabbath.

Maybe that is an issue!

Me? I get paid to work on Sundays (but Sundays are not the Sabbath, anyway.

According to my calendar, and the Bible, Saturdays are.

But that's neither here or there, or our theme for today.)

Let's get back to our two women, the first with "the flow of blood":

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.

Mark 5:25-29

In the crowd, she approached Jesus, brushed up against him,

and he knew that energy had flowed from him,

He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Mark 5:34

And today's crippled woman does not even have to approach him;

Jesus sees her in the crowd and calls to her:

When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

Luke 13: 12-13

The greatest sin is not Jesus ignoring the Sabbath,

nor even the Rabbi's objection,

but the greatest sin is that the Church - we -

we push off these two women from our Sunday worship

and the needs they still suffer.

Each week I say, "Call me 24/7. I'm always on-call."

Years ago, when I worked at the Medical Center,

and Sue was editor of the Hershey newspaper,

she had the fire pager and the police scanner,

and I had the chaplain's pager (this was before cell-phones).

In the middle of the night, something would go off, I'd look at Sue,

she'd look at me, and ask - "Is that yours or mine?"

"Well, I would respond, if it's yours, it will be mine. Time to get up."

"Call me: 24/7. I'm always on-call."

Perhaps the greatest sin is mine -

not calling those of you who I suspect may need a visit,

or the healing presence for just a chat.

I'm hoping that soon that I may come to the home of some

who are not able or are cautious about coming to worship.

And while the whole congregation cannot yet receive Holy Communion,
I could perhaps one-on-one, or in a family gathering
offer the Sacrament in a safe manner.

Let us pray, reach out, call, and allow those who need spiritual healing,
to touch “even the hem” of our parish robes,
starting here and now without hesitation.

And call me, 24/7,
whenever you need.

Sue and the dogs will understand!

AMEN.

The 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.

PRAYERS

BCP Form II, adapted

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; and for all ministers and people.

I ask your prayers for this parish family, and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

I ask your prayers for those who govern and hold authority in the nations; that they may be led to govern with equity and justice for the benefit of the entire human family. Inspire them to discover new ways of overcoming divisions and mistrust. We pray for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

I ask your prayers for those who rejoice this week; for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

I ask your prayers for the poor, for those who are on furlough or have lost their jobs; for the sick, especially Libby, Russ, and Fr. Arthur Jones of Susquehanna County Ministries; the hungry; the oppressed, the anxious; and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitchell.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Jim; those who have died by violent acts, and those who have succumbed to the complications of COVID-19.

I ask your thanksgiving for families with whom we live and love; thanksgivings for first responders, health-care workers and all who offer of themselves for the betterment of others.

To sum up all these petitions,
let us now pray the words which Christ himself taught us, saying:

Our Father...

“A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God”

From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray “A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God.” This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID pandemic – is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
[break bread], share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty ☩ be upon you all and remain with you forever.
Amen.

Organ Postlude -

“*All my hope on God is founded*”

Hymnal 1982 #665

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