

Service of Holy Communion
Pentecost 2 – Father’s Day - June 19, 2022

Hymn 529 – In Christ there is no East or West

In Christ there is no East or West, in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate’er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
In him meet South and North,
all Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

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Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

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.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Collect for Pentecost 2

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading – Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:18-27

Second Reading – Galatians 3:23-29

Hymn 554 – Father, we thank thee who hast planted

Father, we thank thee who hast planted thy holy Name within in our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal Jesus thy Son to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy pleasure, and didst give us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the Bread eternal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.

Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mercy, save it from evil, guard it still,
perfect it in thy love, unite it, cleansed and conformed unto thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides, was in this broken bread made one,
So from all lands thy Church be gathered into thy kingdom by thy Son.

Gospel – Luke 8:26-39

Sermon

Nicene Creed – page 358

*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.*

Prayers of the People Form IV – page 388

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth,
live together in you love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in you mercy. *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

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

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

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

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

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

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

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

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

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

Confession and Absolution – page 360

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.*

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

The Peace – page 360

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Eucharistic Prayer – page 361

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 358 – Faith of our fathers!

Faith of our fathers! living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword:
O how our hearts beat high with joy, whene'er we hear that glorious word:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer shall win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God, mankind shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! we will love both friend and foe in all our strife:
and preach thee, too, as love knows how, by kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon for Pentecost 2 – June 19, 2022 – Father’s Day

The subject for today is the apostrophe. In Father’s Day, does the apostrophe come between the r and the s, as in a single father and as displayed on our insert? Or does the apostrophe come after the s, as in recognition of all fathers, including The Father.

The answer for you and me in this place is “both .. and,” not “either .. or.” On this day, we certainly recognize all fathers, including step-fathers. But our focus today is on the Father from the Lord’s Prayer, with application to all of us as parents and children.

So, back to the apostrophe. Whose day is it? It is the Father’s. Capital F. The Creator. He owns today. He owns every day. He made this clear to the Hebrews, again and again. From today’s Old Testament passage: “I – the Father – was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ to a nation that did not call on my name.”

God wants us to respond. God wants us to pray, “Our Father.” As God has entered into a relationship with you and me, God wants you and me to enter into a relationship with him. What God wants is very clear. What is fuzzy is our response. It’s as if we sometimes wonder whether the apostrophe is accurate. Is God the Creator? Does He merit the apostrophe? Or, have we invented God? Do we merit an apostrophe?

Rather bold of us, don’t you think? Today’s Psalm has a different, more traditional understanding. “You, Lord, are my strength; hasten to help me.” God is in charge. It’s not a matter of who has the apostrophe. God is The Apostrophe!

St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians underscores the fundamental relationship of God to you and me, through Christ. “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.” What is the promise? Back to Isaiah: “Here I am, here I am.” God’s presence, God’s love, is “the promise.” And it is not negotiable.

Essentially God says, “I am God, and, as God, as THE Apostrophe, I can do whatever I want. And what I want, what I choose to do, is embrace you with a

forgiving love like no other. I choose to embrace you, and I will make that point over and over again.”

We have an example of this incredible love in today’s gospel. A man was possessed by demons, and then healed by Jesus. The man was so grateful that he wanted to stay by Jesus’ side. But Jesus said, “No, I have other plans for you. Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And the healed man obeyed. “So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.”

And, here we are. Grateful for the Good News of Jesus, the healing power of Jesus, the forgiveness of our sins, and, yes, the hope of Jesus that we will say thank you by proclaiming how much Jesus has done for us and how much Jesus has done and can do and will do for others. We are in the spirit of today’s Collect: “O Lord, we beseech thee, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name.”

Now, “perpetual love” we get. But what about “perpetual fear”? Does God want us to remain afraid? No, God wants us to continue to recognize God as The Apostrophe, the One who set the Creation in motion and who continues to watch over it and who expects us to share in that watching-over.

The Collect describes this Divine expectation as “loving kindness.” You and I get an assignment that helps not only us, but those with whom we share the Good News. It’s a win-win, isn’t it? And the first of the “wins” is God deciding to proclaim “Here I am.” The second of the “wins” is up to us. “Here God is. He has found me.” And, as we have noted, there is a third “win,” which is up to those with whom we share.

But, and this is crucial. As God has been patient with you and me, as shaky disciples, so God will be patient with others. The baton will not only be passed, but accepted, and then passed again.

Are you ready for yet another sport’s analogy? Of course, you are. It has been a whole week after all. Dan told me not to worry.

So, for today, think of the 400 or 800 meter relay. A lead-off person, and then a series of passing the baton until the baton reaches the final member of the team, who completes the relay.

You are I aren't the lead-off, and we are not the final sprinter. But, as those in the middle, we are crucial to a performance that will please the Lord.

Elite relay teams will spend days, weeks, years practicing the transfer of the baton. It not just a matter of handing the baton to another person. There's also the challenge of receiving the baton and finishing a leg, and then beginning the next leg with as little slow-down as possible.

Good coordination is important no matter the length of the relay, but good coordination is crucial in sprint relays. Now, what you and I do on a weekly basis here is not a sprint relay. But it is a relay, and our roles change from week to week, and even within a single service.

What does not change, however, is that some exchange takes place. Faith is received, lived-out, and passed on - shared, if you will - and that sequence is repeated over many generations. Each of us will experience different roles. Sometimes we lead, sometimes we sustain, sometimes we will finish, before beginning yet another relay.

But, whatever our role on any given day, we are in it together, and responding to a coach, whom we know as Lord. Sometimes we even call the Lord the Apostrophe, the One who owns it all. But, who, out of Love, wants our cooperation in caring for the whole enterprise.

Our final hymn today includes this phrase: "And through the truth that comes from God, mankind shall then indeed be free." Another way of saying that we receive the baton in order to pass the baton.

This pass, this transfer, this sharing of the apostrophe, is what you and I are about every time we gather. And what is the key to improving the pass, the transfer? What is the response when we pray "Lord, how can I do better?" You know it: practice, practice, practice.

Amen.

Lessons for 2nd Sunday after Pentecost – June 19, 2022

Collect: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh with broth of abominable things in their vessels; who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the Lord; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. Thus says the Lord: as the wine is found in a cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. I will bring forth the descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 22:18-27

Be not far away, O Lord;

you are my strength; hasten to help me.

Save me from the sword,

my life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth,

my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

I will declare your Name to my brethren;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;

stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them;

but when they cry to him he hears them;

My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:

"May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;

he rules over the nations.

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer males and females; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me" – for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*