

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

7/5/2020

Return to In-person worship

Readings and Prayers

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, 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.

¹¹They 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.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout 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.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

[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’; ¹⁹the 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; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All 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. ²⁹Take 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.”

Prayers of the People and Special Prayers for our Nation

When I say, “Hear us, O God,” you respond, “**Your mercy is great.**”

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence is held as we gather our prayers.

We pray for the church.

Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground.

Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation.

Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living, in each of our households as we are able to do it:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations of the world and the leaders of the nations.

Grant them the wisdom to lead in these perilous economic times.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our own beloved country, the United States of America, as we celebrate our birth as a nation.

We praise you for the gift of freedom from tyranny, for the wonders of our land, for the gift of the peoples who have built up our nation in this and every place, and for the labor of their lives.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant to our leaders the strengths they need to lead, whether in our local communities, in our state, or in congress, the courts, or the office of the President and his advisors.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who defend and protect our nation through military service. We remember before you those who serve from among us, naming especially

We pray for our nation in this time of difficulty.

Where there is hate, allow the power of love to work through us.

Where there is despair, plant the seeds of hope.

Where there is division, shine the light of new understanding that can lead to unity.

Where there is vengeance, build a shield of protection around the innocent.

Where there is chaos, speak your Word to still the storm.

Where there is isolation, grant the gift of community,
even when people are physically alone.

Where there is sin, allow us to see ourselves rightly to bring us to repentance.

Where there is anger lashing out, let your Holy Spirit build bridges of understanding.

Give us, in this season, such a love for our country that we may also stretch and grow in new ways, especially in areas that are difficult for us in our common life, for the honor and sake of our nation. *pause*

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for ourselves, for our own Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on this first Sunday of returning to in-person worship.

We thank you holding us 'til this day and ask that you sustain us until all the difficulties of the pandemic subside.

With gratitude, we praise you for the work of Pastor, Minister of Music, musicians, congregational leaders, and all who have stepped up to give more of themselves in this season of Covid to enrich Grace's online presence, and now to begin to open.

Be a shield of protection for us as we gather and move the ministry forward. Lead and guide us.

Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms us.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the offerings we bring.

Our ordinary gifts seem small when we stand in your presence. Multiply the gifts we are able to offer to make them abundant, not merely enough, that you may be seen through us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear now the prayers of our hearts as we offer them before you both silently and aloud:

Silence for the prayers of people's hearts

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith *pause*

Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Prayers adapted by and Special Prayers for the Nation prepared by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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