

The First Sunday after Trinity (Proper VI) [Year A] 14th June 2020

INTROIT: I 00 ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL.

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
2. The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.
3. O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.
5. To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God Whom Heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

All people that on earth do dwell
William Kethe (d. 1594)
Day's Psalter (1560).
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OLD HUNDREDTH
Louis Bourgeois (c.1510 – c.1561)
Source: Hymnal: Genevan Psalter, (1551)
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The Collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading*Exodus 19.2-8a*

²The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. ³Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: ⁴You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

⁷So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. ⁸The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.'

Second Reading*Romans 5.1-8*

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

GRADUAL HYMN: 212 WHO WOULD VALIANT BE.

**Words as adapted by
Percy Dearmer**

He who would valiant be
'gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
follow the Master.
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
with dismal stories
Do but themselves confound –
his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might;
though he with giants fight,
He will make good his right
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend
us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end,
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.

**Original Text by John Bunyan
from Pilgrim's Progress**

Who would true valour see,
let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
come wind, come weather
There's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
with dismal stories
Do but themselves confound;
his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright,
he'll with a giant fight,
He will have a right to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt his spirit,
He knows he at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away,
he'll fear not what men say,
He'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.

He who would valiant be
Percy Dearmer (1867 – 1936) after John Bunyan (1628 – 1688)
MONKS GATE Anon. but collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)
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Gospel Reading

Matthew 9.35 - 10.23

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the

lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

'See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

SERMON by Cathy Mathews (Licensed Lay Minister)

Paul says in the Letter to the Romans that faith in Jesus is the way to God and that we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. But we also rejoice in our sufferings. Why? Because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character, and character, hope. Suffering can build character and make us stronger. A person with strong character can make the choice not to despair, but to hope.

What are we hoping for? "The glory of God." To get closer to God; to be holy. And that does happen, because the Holy Spirit inhabits all who follow Jesus, fills us with God's love and helps us to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

Paul also talks about the fact that Jesus died for sinners. He says that people don't generally want to lay down their lives for each other, even if they would be doing it for someone who is righteous or good. Yet Jesus laid down his life for sinners, says Paul.

People do sometimes die for someone else. One example is Maximillian Kolbe. He was a Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in the place of another prisoner at Auschwitz. A second example, which is rather poignant at the moment, is what happened in the village of Eyam in Derbyshire in 1665. The inhabitants contracted the bubonic plague. Some people wanted to leave, but the rector persuaded them to stay put so that the plague would not spread to the neighbouring areas. They did stay put and two hundred and sixty people died. That is a lot in a small village.

As Paul says, this degree of altruism is unusual. However, there are people laying down their lives for each other at the moment. Many are caring for others in various capacities with great courage, and some of the carers have died. More may do so. They have shown and are showing love and selflessness, which are Christian qualities. Whether or not they are officially Christians, they are behaving in a Christ-like way. They are giving their lives for sinners.

The Old Testament reading is from the Book of Exodus, about the Israelites, who had survived the ten plagues that God sent upon the Egyptians. They were, of course, the Egyptians' slaves. Now, under the leadership of Moses, they are arriving in the Sinai Desert. All those plagues must have been tremendously stressful. But they have come through them and there is hope that they will get to the promised land.

God tells Moses that if they obey him, then the Israelites will be for him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

So the Israelites suffered, they persevered, they became stronger and they hoped. Then what happened? They became closer to God. They became holy. You can't be much closer to God than being a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

We, the Church, in our current suffering, can also grow closer to God if we choose to do so. Suffering, perseverance, character and hope. We, the Church, like the Israelites, are priests in the Biblical sense. And we, the Church, like the Israelites, are holy. In the world, but not of the world. And we can become holier.

The gospel reading from the gospel of Matthew is about Jesus sending out the disciples to spread the gospel and to back this up with healing miracles. When Jesus and any of his followers perform miracles, of course the miracles are partly to show people who Jesus is and to help them believe. But I think this is not his main motivation. Jesus is always full of compassion. Where there is sickness, he wants to heal. Jesus always puts human suffering first and alleviates it.

In fact, you might say that Jesus died for sinners in order to heal the whole human race spiritually, for the same reason that he heals those who are sick physically. Jesus is about healing.

Jesus suffered, he persevered, he had character and he is holy. You might say that the healing of people spiritually and physically is the fruit of his ministry.

This is the sequence:- suffering, perseverance, character, hope, holiness and fruit.

The human race at the moment is suffering, if not everyone individually, then certainly as a whole. And we, the Church, have the choice to become stronger and holier, through all this. And the fruit of that is that we will want to help others, in whatever ways we can. Let's do it in the name of Jesus. Amen

OFFERTORY HYMN: 131 LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.
4. Finish then Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Love divine, all loves excelling
Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)
BLAENWERN
William Penfro Rowlands (1860 – 1937)
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POST-COMMUNION HYMN: 233 O THOU WHO CAMEST FROM ABOVE.

1. O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!
2. There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.
3. Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.
4. Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

O thou who camest from above
Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)
HEREFORD
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810 – 1876)
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Prayer after Communion

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 193 PRAISE THE LORD YE HEAVENS ADORE HIM

1. Praise the Lord, ye heavens, adore Him!
Praise Him, angels in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him,
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed:
Laws, which never shall be broken,
For their guidance He hath made.
2. Praise the Lord, for He is glorious:
Never shall His promise fail.
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation,
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;
Heaven and earth and all creation,
Laud and magnify His Name.
3. Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer to Thy name.
Young and old, Thy praise expressing,
Join their Saviour to proclaim:
As the saints in heaven adore Thee,
We would bow before Thy throne,
As Thine angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.

Praise the Lord, ye heavens, adore Him!
Edward Osler (1798 – 1863)
AUSTRIA
Unknown Croatian folk melody
adapted by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)
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