

Order of Worship for 6-21-26

Prelude:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”- Hymn #685

Confession and Absolution: page 203

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm:

P: The LORD is my light and salvation—

C: whom shall I fear?

P: One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek:

C: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.

P: For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling;

C: He will hide me in the shelter of His sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

P: Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

C: at His sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

ALL: Glory be 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.

P: The LORD is my light and salvation—

C: whom shall I fear?

Kyrie (*Lord, Have Mercy*) p. 204

Hymn of Praise (*Gloria in Excelsis*) p. 204

P: The Lord be with you,

C: and also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

P: O God, our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver Your sons and daughters from fear, and preserves us all from unbelief, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Lesson – Jeremiah 20:7-13

R: O LORD, You have deceived me, and I was deceived; You are stronger than I, and You have prevailed. I have become a laughing stock all the day; everyone mocks me. For

whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, “I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.” But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see Your vengeance upon them, for to You have I committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Epistle Lesson – Romans 6:12-23

R: Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to 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 who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, 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 lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Alleluia and Verse: pg. 205

Holy Gospel – Matthew 10:21-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said] Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my

name's sake. 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 say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Creed: Close of the Commandments pg. 322

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn: "*The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*" – **Hymn #508** vs. 1-4, 7

Sermon: "*A Vengeful God?*" - **Jeremiah 20:7-13**

In the 1970's and early 80's one of the most popular shows on TV was M*A*S*H*, about an army medical team during the Korean War of the 1950's. Though the show was supposed to be about Korea, it really reflected the ideas and values of its own time. In the earlier episodes the United States was still involved in Vietnam, so the show had a very anti-war sentiment. This could be seen in an episode where a North Korean sniper was shooting at the medical unit. But due to anti-war sentiment and the comedy in the show, the sniper was depicted as being very incompetent, since he kept missing. In the end an army helicopter came by and wounded him with a machine gun round. The two main characters, Hawkeye and Trapper John, see this and act with regret and pity for the poor enemy. Then they go and treat him and his injuries.

That may have caught the sentiments of that time and that show, but it is not how people react in a situation like that. If a sniper starts shooting and someone kills him, people will react with relief and joy. And it isn't just when the sniper is a good shot. My father-in-law served as a Navy aircraft mechanic during World War 2 and was stationed on Guadalcanal. During the night a Japanese seaplane would drop bombs on the island. Most of the time its aim was atrocious. Our service people mockingly called it "Washing Machine Charlie" because of the noise it made. But they still had to get up in the night and run to the slit trenches when it came by. There were no tears shed when the seaplane base it came from was destroyed. If someone threatens your life and someone else has the ability to take that person down, we are grateful for it.

That is the way Jeremiah felt. He had been thrown in a well and his life threatened by the King of Judah and the religious and political leaders of Jerusalem. He describes it this way:

For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" say all my close friends, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him."

So Jeremiah cries out to God:

The LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see Your vengeance upon them, for to You have I committed my cause.

And we see how he feels knowing that God will vanquish his enemies:

Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

From our perspective today this may seem inappropriate with the talking of vengeance. Didn't Jesus talk about "Turning the other cheek," and "Loving our enemies"?

Though our country fought in the trenches of France in World War 1, the skies and fields of Europe, the trade routes over the oceans, the beaches of isolated islands in the Pacific and the jungles of new Guinea in World War 2, the mountains of Korea, the jungle of Southeast Asia, and the deserts of the Persian Gulf, we have not had major war in this lands since the Civil War. Despite the news of crime, do we have to fear taking walks in the cool of the evening in our neighborhoods? Do we live in daily fear of someone who threatens your life? Maybe you do, but that is something people usually keep silent because they don't think others would understand. So the idea of turning the other cheek and loving enemies sounds okay, because are we really threatened by enemies?

But our lives are threatened, even if we don't realize it. I am not talking about the reality that something—hearty disease, cancer, stroke, an accident, or something else will bring about our death, but the greater threat of being separated from God. That was the reality that Jeremiah faced. He expressed it this way:

For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention Him, or speak any more in His name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

The pressure put on Jeremiah from his enemies was continually tempting him to forsake God and not obey His command to warn the people of their evil ways. That is why He called on God for vengeance—not his own against Jeremiah's enemies, but God's vengeance, God putting things right.

When many of us learned the Ten Commandments we were taught the words of the catechism that we should "fear and love God." If we love a God who is just nice, then we would still be in the control of our enemies—what the catechism calls "sin, death and the devil." But our God doesn't just love us, He is the fearful, mighty God who can take vengeance on evil, who has the power to deliver us from that which threatens us.

What threatens to separate us from God? One great thing is our doubts. Why does God allow evil things to happen to those who seem so innocent? In our society the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Is it that there really is no God or that God is simply cruel? But what causes those doubts? Is it what we see as so wrong in this world? No, the source of our doubts is our sin. Remember how the devil tempted Eve and Adam, “Did God really say you are not to eat from the fruit of the tree?” That sin continually pulls us apart from God. The answer to it is not to answer our questions and clear up the doubts, but to deal with the sin behind it, to treat it as God does, as an enemy that He defeated by nailing it to the cross with Jesus. On the cross, God’s vengeance came fully on our sin which Jesus carried in our place. He didn’t tip toe around it. He crushed it and Satan with His vengeance—and we can rejoice as Jeremiah did:

Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

Offering and Voluntary:

Sharing Our Ministry:

Prayer of the Church:

Service of the Sacrament

Preface: pg. 208

P: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should in all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty God, heavenly Father, for You have not turned away to ignore evil, but You sent Your Son, Christ Jesus to crush Satan under his feet so that we can be freed from the power of sin. Therefore with angels and all the army of heaven we praise and make great Your holy name evermore praising You and singing . . .

Sanctus: (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) p. 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: Blessed are You O Lord God, ruler of the universe for You have delivered us needy sinners from the power of evil through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Christ Jesus. Send Your Holy Spirit so that we come for forgiveness as we partake of the meal of Jesus’ true body and blood, given for us. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He taught us . . .

The Lord’s Prayer, The Words of Our Lord, Pax Domini: (*Peace of the Lord*) p. 209

Agnus Dei: (*Lamb of God*) p. 210

Distribution of Holy Communion:

Hymns: “*I Walk in Danger All the Way*” – **Hymn #716**
“*Wide Open Stand the Gates*” – **Hymn #639**

Nunc Dimittis (*Song of Simeon*) p. 211

Prayer After Communion:

P: O God, our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver Your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction: p. 212

Closing Hymn: “*O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe*” – **Hymn #666**

Postlude