

Order of Service for Sunday, July 5, 2020

The Collect

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’”

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son.’”

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.

Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.” Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Psalm 145:8-15

- 8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
- 10 All your works praise you, O LORD, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
- 11 They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;
- 12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
- 14 The LORD is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.
- 15 The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

Psalm 145 (G138)

REFRAIN: Our God is compassion to all creation.
Our God is compassion to all creation.

The Lord is grace and mercy, slow to anger, full of love.
God is good to all creation; full of compassion. REFRAIN

Let all your works give thanks, O God. Let the faithful bless you.
The eyes of all are filled with hope; you give them all they need. REFRAIN

The Lord is just in every way, full of love for all.
God is near to those in need; who call out from their hearts. REFRAIN

The Epistle

Romans 7:15-25a

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

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but 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. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the 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.”

At 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; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All 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.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Prayers of the People

LEADER:

During this time of great challenge, the Holy Spirit emboldens us to carry on the life-giving work of Jesus, to persevere as the hands and feet of the Risen Christ in the world. May we always trust that God knows us better than we know ourselves and gives us the strength we need for the work Christ beckons us to do. Holy Spirit, inspire us as we rejoice in Christ among us, steadfast in God’s loving embrace.

For the Universal Church, its members and its mission: may any attempt at exclusion fall away as we grow in the fullness of the Risen Christ and his message of God’s Love for all. Holy Spirit, inspire us

PEOPLE: As we rejoice in Christ among us, steadfast in God’s love.

For the Nations of the World and all those who hold positions of authority: may they heed the call for social, economic, and racial justice. May they seek to abolish systemic, institutionalized injustice with a commitment to the well being of those they serve. Holy Spirit, inspire us

PEOPLE: As we rejoice in Christ among us, steadfast in God’s love.

For the Welfare of the World: May we befriend the victims of systemic injustice, especially those we are quick to judge or inclined to exclude. May we work boldly for justice, assuring dignity and belonging to all, and may we support those who give their lives to this struggle. Holy Spirit, inspire us

PEOPLE: As we rejoice in Christ among us, steadfast in God’s love.

For our Reconciliation family, our neighbors and community: may we reinvigorate our resolve to practice compassion for all. May we listen to the stories of others and forge relationships with those we do not know. Holy Spirit, inspire us

PEOPLE: As we rejoice in Christ among us, steadfast in God's love.

We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially—

Jan, **Kimberly**, Ron, Jean, **Greg**, Nora, Ken, **Reese**, Benny, Garnet, **George**, Ted, Abbie, **Kes**, Jean, Randy, **John**, Jim, Fred, **Lisa**, Anna, Jim, **Susan**, Yvonne, **Liz**, John, Phil, **Brenda**, Audie, Steve, **Stella**, Ben, Della, **Robert**, Joe, Dru, **Betty**, **Joan**, and **Gordon**. May they trust that God knows their pain and may they find strength in the Eternal Source of all love and healing.

And for those departed especially Seawillow Jackson, mother of Kay Mangus, and Jean Reischling, wife of Ed, as well as those near to their final crossing, may they find peace in the assurance that Christ carries them to the arms of God.

Holy Spirit, inspire us

PEOPLE: As we rejoice in Christ among us, steadfast in God's love. Holy Spirit, may we feel your urgency to turn away from ways of being that support structures of injustice and inequality. May we come closer to living into Christ's call to walk in the way of Love.