

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at officefelc@zoominternet.net to be added to the email list for a link to the service

Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!

+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281
Password: 408299

If you are planning to return to in-person worship services, please let Caitlyn know that you no longer need to receive the bulletin in the mail.

GATHERING

If you are not online and worshipping at home with more than one person, the parts may be divided up responsively or may be prayed in unison.

WELCOME

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

HYMN *(see next page)*

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -

own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON *zoom/ in person worship*

THE WORD

FIRST READING **Genesis 28:10-19a**

God's graciousness to Jacob is shown in God's revelation of the divine self to the patriarch, who is running for his life after cheating his brother Esau out of the family inheritance. Jacob promises that if God brings him back to the land, he will be loyal to God and give God a tenth of everything (vv. 20-22).

¹⁰Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ^{19a}He called that place Bethel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 139:1-12, 23-24 *Read responsively*

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

 O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
 and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
 but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
 and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

⁷Where can I go then from your Spirit?
 Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸**If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

⁹If I take the wings of the morning
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰**even there your hand will lead me
 and your right hand hold me fast.**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
 and the light around me turn to night,"

¹²**darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
 darkness and light to you are both alike.**

²³Search me out, O God, and know my heart;
 try me and know my restless thoughts.

²⁴**Look well whether there be any wickedness in me
 and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

SECOND READING **Romans 8:12-25**

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God’s judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *online*

CHILDREN’S CHURCH IDEAS

Genesis 28:10-19a (Jacob’s ladder)

Who was going up and down the ladder in today’s story?

Use your legos to build a ladder, or draw a ladder.

Use the spoons or lego figures or drawing to show people going up the ladder.

Who are the people you made going up the ladder?

Why do you think they would want to go up the ladder into heaven?
What do you think it would be like to go up the ladder?

Using the spoons or legos or your drawing, show God coming down the ladder.

Can you think of a time God has come down the ladder?

Maybe there are lots and lots of times!

We know Jesus coming to live on earth as a human is an example of God coming down the ladder.

Draw or build a picture of Jesus coming to earth.

In today's story, it seems like Jacob was surprised that God was in the place Jacob was in.

Have you ever noticed any places or times in your life, where it seemed like God was there? Was anyone else also there?

Draw or build a picture of a place where you noticed God was there.

Do you think there are places that God is in, but that you haven't noticed that God is there?

This week, try to notice places where God is.

It probably won't be as noticeable as a vision of a ladder with angels coming up and down!

What clues will you look and listen for to be able to notice God?

Draw a magnifying glass to remind yourself to look for clues that God is nearby.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with the words, "hear us, O God."

A brief silence.

Good and loving God:

For your church, that you would draw it more deeply into a relationship with you through this time of hardship, discomfort, and loss, we pray: **Hear us, O God.**

For the earth and for those who care for soil, air, water, and animals, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

For those throughout the world who flee violence, especially in the Middle East and Central America, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

For those who work in public health or who lead our schools, that would be given wisdom as they make complex decisions in this time of pandemic, and that they would be supported and preserved from violence and wrath, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

For our own minds, that you would cultivate in us a spirit that refrains from self-righteous judgment, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

For restaurant owners in our community, that they may find creative ways to live through economic hardship, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

For those who are sick or injured, for those who are quarantined, for those who are recovering from surgery, and for those who find their emotional well-being slipping away, that they may experience wholeness in every circumstance, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

For those who have died, especially Mildred and Julie, that we may remember their lives with gratitude and that their loved ones may experience the profound comfort of your Son's resurrection, we pray:

Hear us, O God.

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

Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son... *(the presiding minister continues giving thanks, concluding)*

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;

fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,

that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,

with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace, Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The gifts of God for the people of God!

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Amen.**

HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.