

# Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2020

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
Brooklyn Center, MN

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN #858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty verses 1, 2 and 4

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE Pages 98-99

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**            page 101

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**    The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**    *Let us pray . . .*

**God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PSALM 116:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> **Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
'O Lord, I pray, save my life!'**

<sup>5</sup> Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.

<sup>6</sup> **The Lord protects the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

<sup>7</sup> Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

<sup>8</sup> **For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

<sup>9</sup> I walk before the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**ROMANS 5:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL**            **Matthew 9:35—10:8**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup>therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

<sup>10:1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup>Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### **"COMPASSION"**

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Grace and peace to you, from God, who raised Jesus from the dead. Amen.

This past week, Rahul Dubey opened the door of his Washington D.C. home to 70 protestors who were being corralled and pepper-sprayed by police. With about 70 people sitting in his living room, Rahul provided milk for wiping eyes and faces to stop the stinging tears. The 70 spent the night and stayed until the city's curfew ended at 6:00 a.m. the next morning.

-It happened last year, after devastating attacks in New Zealand's Christchurch mosques, 95-year-old John Sato decided to join a march against racism to show his support for the Muslim people. He took 4 buses to get to there. "I thought it was so sad," he said, "You can just feel the suffering of the people."

-And then speaking to a news reporter this past week, the Houston Texas chief of police said, "Compassion is not weakness. The only way to overcome hate is love and encouragement." What strikes me in all of these incidents is **compassion** - people feeling and entering into the hurt of others. And what strikes me in all the many words that we find in our gospel reading for today is one word - the word COMPASSION! ***"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."***

Today I want to focus on this very strange word, compassion, that we find in our gospel. In Greek it is the word *esplagchnisthel* and the word means literally "his guts were moved." It is a very earthy word and has a visceral sense to it. *Esplagchnisthel* means literally that Jesus' innards - his guts - were moved with deep feeling for the people. We can make compassion very abstract and intellectual. Yet, our deepest feelings begin in the body. Whether it is love, or hurt or compassion, you feel it don't you? It is in your gut - in your innards! As Jesus saw the people, he felt their pain and hurt in his own gut!

The depth of Jesus' feeling for the "harassed and helpless" people in our gospel, shows us the very heart of God. How many of us have known times in our lives, perhaps even now, when we have felt "harassed and helpless?" Those whose relationship with their children or spouse or parent is simply not what they imagined? Those who feel they are seen, and dismissed, because of their age, gender or ethnicity? Those coping with lingering health issues? Those retirees who wonder if they are valued anymore and have a purpose in life. Those who are struggling with loss, frustration or loneliness during this time of the pandemic crisis. If we take the time and allow ourselves to be honest, many of us have and perhaps do feel "harassed and helpless." Please know that feeling "harassed and helpless" is not a sign of weakness or failure but of being human! Jesus did not come primarily to teach or inspire, let alone judge, but rather out of the abundant compassion of God for the world and in order to demonstrate God's loving compassion through word and deed. Jesus saw - really saw - the crowds and he felt their pain in his own gut. My friend, when you and I feel "harassed and helpless" today, Jesus feels the same for us! He enters our hurt and suffers with us!

It's clear that compassion was at the heart of Jesus' life and ministry, so shouldn't it be for us too? After all, Jesus tells us that the harvest is plentiful. I take this to mean that we live in a world that needs more compassion. Hate, greed, self-absorption, and division are not working. Don't we need

a more compassionate and tender world. We need a world where more and more people actually take the time to SEE people and then take the time to listen and to understand what their situation may be. That's what Jesus did! He really SAW the people and then he was moved to compassion for them why down deep in his innards!

A friend told me a story about his encounter with a driver with road rage. A while back, as he was driving a car came roaring up behind him. He didn't know what was happening, so he pulled over at a nearby parking lot. My friend stopped and they both got out of the car. The person driving was a woman who started yelling at him for cutting her off. He had no idea what she was talking about, as he didn't cut anyone off, but she was angry and started yelling at him so much that she was shaking. At that point, I would have probably run away, but what did my friend do? He said, "I'm sorry," reached out his hand, held her hand, and then proceeded to hug her. At that moment her yelling stopped and she calmed down. What a bold move of compassion. I told him that I'm not sure what I would have done in that situation. I don't know if I would have argued back, drove away or just listened, but I'm not sure I would have been able to hug her.

I asked him, what made you do it? He said he just felt something within him calling him to show understanding and compassion. It couldn't have been just the traffic or a car cutting her off, it must have been something else. Sure enough, as he engaged the woman in conversation, she shared with him that she had some heart issues and had just left the doctor's office. As you can imagine, she was upset and alone. My friend's willingness to listen and reach out his arms in love and compassion gave her the freedom to let out her emotions. We never know what someone may be going through, do we? In compassion we take the time to see - really see and to listen - really listen to what the other person is going through.

You and I are called to be grounded in compassion. The only source of this grounding is the love and mercy that God has for each of us in Christ Jesus. God loves us so much that God was willing and able to put us first and take our pain and brokenness to God's self. We have done our worst and Jesus has embraced it and us. We are loved without condition. Jesus didn't come for perfect people because God loves not the person we are trying to be or have promised to be or want to be but God loves the person we are! And how does God respond to us when we are "harassed and helpless"? Our God draws even closer when we are troubled and at loose ends. God holds us close. As we see in the resurrection story of Jesus, when we think all is over - when we look around and see no earthly reason to be hopeful - when we are harassed and helpless like troops scattered at the end of a battle, a fresh cry goes up. A new word is spoken. Something unimagined before begins to come to life.

Jesus puts it this way - ***"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into (God's) harvest."***

Bishop Patricia Lull of the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA says: "As Lutherans, God doesn't need us to make more Lutherans, who can fit into the way of life that became familiar in our churches twenty or thirty or fifty years ago. We are not called to make others into who we once were. That is nostalgia; not gospel work. No. God is looking for a very different kind of labor force today. God is looking for those who will speak up and show up and bear witness that we have a God, who grasps us with grace. A God who says - I claim you. A God, whose compassion is deep enough to hold others close, too.

***"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*** My friend, let me break the news to you. You are needed. No matter what your skills or age or where you are in your life journey, you are needed. Our world needs you! God needs you! Other people need you and me. Jesus changed the world through his compassion. And in his name and by his power, can't we do the same?

Richard Dubey changed 70 people's lives by welcoming them into his home. 95-year-old John Sato marched to support change. Houston Texas police chief change the image of a chief and police officers by saying "compassion is not weakness." My friends, world problems are plentiful, givers of compassion are few!

Let us pray: Lord God, if we are honest, compassion doesn't always come easy to us. Sometimes it feels like it's too much, and there's nothing we can do. But we know that's not true - we know that compassion is enough. And so, we pray for ourselves; that you would soften our hearts, still our fears, help us to see and then lead us to acts of compassion. And then, O God, we pray for others who just need someone to enter into their hurt or situation and see them as you do. Help us, Holy Spirit, to answer your call to be the workers in your harvest field that through our compassion we may be your hands and heart and love to others in our world today. In your name we pray, Lord Christ. Amen.

**HYMN****#574 Here I Am, Lord**

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
 I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in dark and sin  
 my hand will save.  
 I, who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them?  
 Whom shall I send?"

**Refrain**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
 I have borne my people's pain.  
 I have wept for love of them.  
 They turn away.  
 I will break their hearts of stone,  
 give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my word to them.  
 Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
 I will tend the poor and lame.  
 I will set a feast for them.  
 My hand will save.  
 Finest bread I will provide  
 till their hearts be satisfied.  
 I will give my life to them.  
 Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

**CONFESSION OF FAITH****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**

Gathered into the mystery of the Trinity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. *(a brief silence)*

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, and deacons as they lead the church in these trying times. With all the baptized, may they be strengthened to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and in prayer and action, strive for peace and justice in all the earth. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Instill in us a deeper wonder for the created world you have called good, and a great humility for our place within it. Kindle in us a creative and resilient spirit as we care for the earth and its creatures. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of care, you created us in your image; we are your beloved children. May we recognize your likeness in one another. Hold in your loving embrace all experiencing trauma, fear, uncertainty, and loss. Protect vulnerable children and adults from violence or neglect; provide what is needed for those lacking access to food, shelter, and other services. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of healing, you accompany us in sickness and suffering. Bring relief to all afflicted with the coronavirus and all those isolated now more than ever. Strengthen caregivers, health workers, and all whose work ensures the safety and wellbeing of others. Console, heal, and nourish all in need this day. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of connection, you call us to make your presence known. Where the sin of racism fractures our relationships, bring repentance and reconciliation. Open our hearts for attentive listening so that our places of connection are filled with your Spirit. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

### Holy Spirit

There's nothing worth more that will ever come close  
Nothing can compare You're our living hope  
Your Presence

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves  
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone  
In Your Presence Lord

Let us become more aware of Your Presence  
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)

### Worship Team

Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your glory God is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord

Your Presence Lord  
Your Presence Lord, Your Presence  
Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord

## OFFERING PRAYER

**God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to prayer. **Our father who art....**

## BENEDICTION

*Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.*

## SENDING FORTH SONG

### Multiply Your Love

### Worship Team

Multiply Your love through us  
To the lost and the least  
Let us be Your healing hands  
Your instruments of peace  
May our single purpose be  
To imitate Your life  
Through our simple words and deeds  
Let love be multiplied

Multiply Your love through me  
To someone in need  
Help me Lord to freely give  
This grace that I've received  
Let my single purpose be  
To imitate Your life  
Through my simple words and deeds  
Let love be multiplied

Let us see Your kingdom come  
To the poor and broken ones  
Let us see a mighty flood  
Of justice and mercy O Jesus  
Let love be multiplied  
Let love be multiplied

Multiply Your church through us  
To the ends of the earth  
Where there's only barrenness  
Let us see new birth  
Use us as Your laborer  
Working side by side  
Let us see Your harvest come  
Let love be multiplied

Let love be multiplied  
Let love be multiplied  
Multiply Your love through us, Multiply Your love

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY has resumed on-line by means of Zoom communication through June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please join us for the Tuesday Bible Study. Each week will reflect on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. If you would like to be a part of this gathering, all you have to do is to send Pastor Lee your email address. (Pastor's email is: [19ldh53@gmail.com](mailto:19ldh53@gmail.com)) You will be sent an invitation to the meeting. Just click on the link in the email a few minutes before 9:30 a.m. on Tuesdays.