First Lutheran Church – Albany, NY

The Rev. Dr. John M. Medwid, Pastor -- Susan B. Hale, Director of Music and Organist



Order of Worship Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 5, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Susan B. Hale

Pastor John Medwid

PRELUDE
WELCOME
SONG FOR THE PANDEMIC

"Strange Fruit" by Abel Meeropol:
Southern trees bear a strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

God of Justice and of Mercy,

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Your servant Paul warned us that as we sow, so shall we reap. Your prophet Hosea warned us that if we sow the wind, we shall reap the whirlwind. So now, as we bow our heads into the force of the whirlwind, we must know deep down that this is not a momentary aberration or accident of the changing of the wind. As we gaze upon the strange fruit that we have produced we must know in our hearts and souls that this is not random mutation of our planting, but the result of years of sowing in blood and hate. And your church is complicit in sowing a system of injustice, our hands are not free of the blood and our hearts are not free of the hate.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.

Confessing our sinful natures, we pray for your Spirit to begin the long hard work of repentance within and between us, and tear down the dividing walls of hostility so that we may begin to sow to the Spirit of reconciliation and begin the long, hard journey to forgiveness and peace. May those of us who have benefited from systems of injustice seek forgiveness from those of us who have broken by those systems. So that together we might glimpse, if only from a distance for now, the possibility of the Kin-dom of God where all are seen to reveal the image of God as we live in God's justice and peace.

In the Name of the first strange fruit hanging from the tree, the crucified Christ, we pray. **Amen**. *Derek C. Weber*

FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble

and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free

from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

A reading from Romans

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to

Romans 7:15-25a

do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but 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. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

St. Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the 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."

²⁵At 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; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All 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.

²⁸"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and

you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

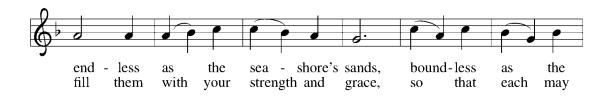
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor John Medwid











Text: Harry N. Huxhold, 1922–2006, sts. 1–2; John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 3, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 Text sts. 1–2 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 into hell. 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

THE CHALLENGE OF THE EUCHARIST

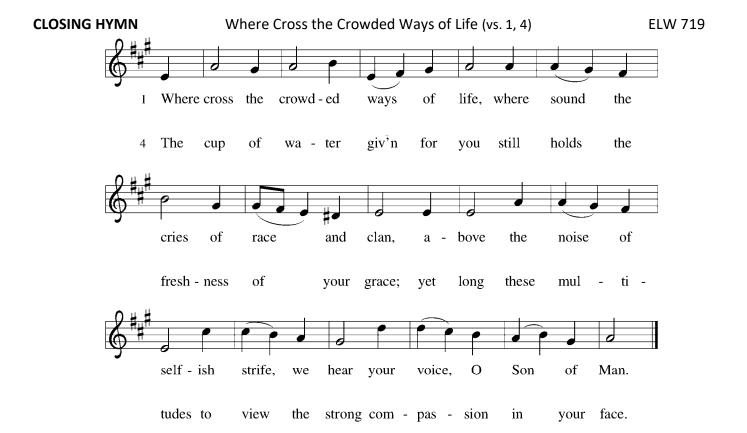
"We are called to live lives that are broken and poured out for others."

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICTION



Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

Music: Walton, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

POSTLUDE