

Sunday, August 2, 2020

WELCOME

Pastor John Medwid

SONG FOR THE PANDEMIC

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

“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, 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 a 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 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 been broken by those systems. So that together we might glimpse, if only from a distance for now, the possibility of the Kingdom 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, freed and forgiven (+)
we pray. Amen.

Derek C. Weber

First Lesson Isaiah 55:1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.**

¹⁸The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹**He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.**

²⁰The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹**My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.**

Second Lesson Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, ^[a] my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, ^[b] who is over all, God blessed forever. ^[c] Amen.

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON

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