

## ELCA Worship Proper 7A -- June 21, 2020

### Opening Hymn 'Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer'

*Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
Hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.*

*Open thou the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream shall flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through:  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer  
Be thou still my strength and shield.  
Be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side:  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.*

Let us pray. Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **First Reading:** Jeremiah 20:7-13

<sup>7</sup>O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;  
you were too powerful for me, and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention the Lord, or speak any more in the name of the Lord,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.

“Perhaps Jeremiah can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup>But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind;

let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!

For the Lord has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** *Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18*

<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,

**and shame has covered my face.**

<sup>8</sup>I have become a stranger to my own kindred,

**an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up;

**the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.**

<sup>10</sup>I humbled myself with fasting,

**but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;

**in your great compassion, turn to me.**

<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face from your servant;

**be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

<sup>18</sup>Draw near to me and redeem me;

**because of my enemies deliver me.**

**Second Reading:** Romans 6:1b-11

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever

has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of the master’s household!”

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. <sup>34</sup>Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a son against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and in-laws against one another; <sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

There is terror all around. Violence and destruction, too. Telling the truth about that condition of the world, however, has always been unpopular. Jeremiah experienced rejection. Even more, Jesus was killed. And Jesus calls us to follow him, to be countercultural like Jeremiah, to value the gospel of Jesus Christ even more than what the world counts as family values, to tell the truth openly about human sin and God’s mercy. It will not be easy. Still, because of Jesus’ death and resurrection and our baptism into

him, we can live a new life, unafraid of death. We can trust we are seen and cared for, even in this time, as surely as God sees the sparrow. And we can tell others of this care, by our words and by our lives.

**Sermon Hymn: “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

*Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.*

*Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe; help me there Your joy to know.*

*Let us gladly die with Jesus, since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die, there to live with You on high.*

*Let us also live with Jesus, he has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken, Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members; where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly, living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.*

*Then pray together these prayers for our church and world:*

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with words from today’s psalm, “your love is kind.”

O God, Father in heaven, hold your church in your loving arms. Strengthen us in this time of isolation. Guide our pastors, deacons, and church councils in their ministry during these troubling times.

Hear us and help us, O God:                   **your love is kind.**

O God our provider, here in the north the summer solstice reminds us of your care for the whole creation. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Feed all your creatures, both the animals and the humans, with the sustenance they need for life. Guide us to sources of energy that do not destroy the earth you have created.

Hear us and help us, O God:                   **your love is kind.**

O God our ruler, inspire our president, our governors and our legislators to work towards justice for all. Lead us to ways of life that are free from racial and ethnic prejudice. Strengthen the world's democracies, and sustain those who are working to secure free and safe elections. Give a home to refugees. Form our military and our police to maintain peace and to inhibit violence.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our physician, bring healing to all who are sick and suffering. Preserve the world from more waves of the coronavirus, and guide researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Protect those whose jobs expose them to contagion. Support our health care workers. We remember before you those we name here now: *Silence.*

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our peacemaker, inhabit each household in the land with your powerful peace. Train us to live together in harmony, especially when quarantined together. Nourish marriages, and sustain extended families. Protect children from harm of every kind.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our source of life, bless all fathers and father figures as they face both long-standing and emerging family needs. Comfort those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beloved, receive now the petitions of our own hearts. *Silence.*

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

O God our beginning and our end, we bless you for all our forebears in family and faith who have lived and died in you. Remind us of their sacrifices, and at the end bring us with them in your household of joy.

Hear us and help us, O God: **your love is kind.**

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

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**