

October 10, 2021

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: We come to this place of worship with a question to ask Jesus. "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

People: First, we are to live a life of righteousness and obedience to God's law: "You shall not murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not give false testimony; you shall not defraud; honor your father and mother."

Pastor: Jesus loves us for our efforts to live a good life, but there is one thing we lack if we want to be totally committed to him. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

People: This makes us sad, because money and possessions are important to us. And Jesus warns that "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." So, who then can be saved?

Pastor: "With human beings this is impossible," Jesus says, "but not with God." Let us now worship the God for whom all things are possible.

#HYMN No. #428 Christ Beside Me

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Lord Jesus, we come before you to ask how we might attain Eternal Life, and you respond by confronting us with the challenge of radical discipleship. You call us to cast off the materialistic ways of the world that have such a tight grip on us and fully commit ourselves to you and your mission. Give us the courage and honesty we need to reassess our priorities and desires, and help us to envision our lives through the lens of your teachings, hard though they may be. Enable us, dear Savior, to give you everything we have and everything we are so that we may fully devote our lives to following you; and if we should hold something back, we ask that you show us mercy and save us. We ask these things in your name, Lord Jesus, as we lift up the prayer you taught us to pray, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
 And to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning,
 Is now and ever shall be,
 World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS Hebrews 4:12-16 and Mark 10:17-31 (Bible pages?)

SERMON MESSAGE: Looked at With Love Rev. Gagnon

HYMN What Must I Do, O Teacher Good?
 (Sung to hymn #39, *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*)

What must I do, O Teacher Good, to gain Eternal Life?
 To win God's favor is my goal, that I may ease my strife.

I've kept God's law for all my days, obeyed since I was young.
 But I feel there's something more I lack that can be done.

Good Teacher, what is this you say? There's one thing I can do.
 Sell all my wealth to help the poor, and then come follow you.

My heart is sad, my head bowed down; it's too much that you ask.
 I can't make such a sacrifice, and so I turn my back.

How hard it is for those with wealth to give it all away,
 So they can follow Jesus Christ and live the Savior's way.

Then how can anyone be saved? At most only a few.
 But nothing is impossible for our great God to do.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Invitation to Pray and Receiving the Prayer Request Slips
 Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer
 Organ Response

OFFERTORY

Offertory Invitation
 Offertory Music
 # Doxology (#45 – Old Hundredth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Lord God, you have given so generously to us, providing for our spiritual and material needs. Through these gifts of time, talent and treasure we give back for your use a portion of the possessions we have, which we have held on to in the belief that they can bring us happiness and security. In response to the call of Jesus to re-examine our priorities and follow him more diligently, we offer you these contributions of our money and ourselves and ask you to bless them. May they help support Christ's saving work and lead others to inherit the blessing of Eternal Life. Amen.

#HYMN #S-8 He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Jesus, the Good Teacher whom we have encountered during worship, is calling us to discipleship.

People: But what Christ asks of his disciples is not feasible. If we have to give away all of our possessions in order to enter God's kingdom, who can possibly be saved?

Pastor: For us it is impossible. But not for God, because for God all things are possible.

People: We leave here with the assurance that at this very moment Jesus is looking at us with love and praying we will love him more than material wealth.

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE