

June 28, 2020 Pentecost Season Lect A CANADA DAY Service

We always celebrate on the Sunday before Canada Day and this year is not any different.

So wear something red & white for fun!

Have something red & white ready for your treat after worship.

CALL ANOTHER MEMBER you have not talked to in a while, on Sunday and have a chat!

Take a picture of your family & send it to Dave. We will have Holy Communion together - separately for the first time since March.

You will need either wine or grape juice and bread of some kind.

You may use what cups & plates you have – do not go out & purchase.

Here is a list: a white cloth, large cup or individual ones, a large paten(plate) for bread or small – depending on the size of your family.

A cross and a candle.

Preparing for worship today:

Good morning – welcome to worship,

I hope you are able to gather everyone in your household together this morning. If you are not alone - assign parts of this beforehand. If you don't have a Bible you can google the scripture readings and print them out too. Perhaps print out copies of this for everyone present. This Liturgy is from the Lutheran Book of Worship and the modified prayers this morning are based on those from Sundays & Seasons.com. Hymns are from the ELW & LBW.

Shut off all the distractions in your home. Sit in the quiet for a bit – take some deep breaths. Light the candle.

GATHERING TOGETHER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Hymn: ELW 556- Morning Has Broken

The Lord be with you – and also with you

Let us pray: Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who have come from many nations, with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties. Give leaders the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our sovereign and our Savior. Amen.

THE WORD

Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4,15-18 Romans 6:12 -23 **Matthew 10:40-42**

What are some of those cups of cold water that we can give to others in our daily lives?

The word EVEN - It's such a small word. You use it only when you want to make a point. A point about something surprising or unlikely. And usually it's a point about something surprisingly small or extremely unlikely. It's functions a lot like the word "just" – as in "it takes *just* a little" – but intensified. Which is exactly how Jesus uses it here. "and whoever gives *even* a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward" (10:42).

Really? That's all it takes? Giving someone a cup of cold water? Not that offering welcome was *all* that arduous but, seriously, something as small as offering a cup of cold water is what it takes to secure one's reward?

It is simply describing what it actually *means* to be a disciple. Empowerment, yes, *and* struggle. Welcome *and* rejection. Division, persecution, *and* the call to

faithfulness. All of these are part and parcel of being a disciple, then and now. And maybe this talk of reward isn't about how one *earns* rewards but rather is about recognizing the rewards – the blessings – already showered upon them by God.

Jesus is talking about those who welcome them. The “little ones” are the very disciples he has commissioned and sent out. Those who welcome them would normally not be considered terribly important. They are servants to the apostles, helpers, facilitators, but not actors or agents, let alone the stars of the show. Yet *even* these, through as small a gesture as *just* giving a cup of water, are drawn into the mission of the disciples and, in turn, the mission of Jesus. Discipleship, in other words, doesn't have to be heroic. *Even* offering a cold cup of water counts.

Once you realize this, we can quickly add to the list. Just smiling at the strangers, we see instead of ignoring them. Even offering a shoulder to cry on to one who grieves. Just welcoming the new child at school or at camp. Even writing a letter to a member of parliament about an important issue. Just showing up for a march to protest the abuse of power. Even thanking a law enforcement officer or someone in the military for their service. Just offering to buy some school supplies for a teacher whose budget has been cut. Just being there when your kids need you. Even volunteering to help with the Food Bank. Just speaking up for someone being discriminated against. Just supporting one of the many social service agencies of our churches that regularly cares “for the least of these.”

Small gestures, I know. Except that, in the kingdom of God, *there is no small gesture, when done in faith, they reverberate with cosmic significance.* Each and

every act of kindness and generosity has an impact well beyond what you'd imagined. Indeed, Jesus' words seem to imply that no act of generosity or kindness will be forgotten. You never know the difference your faithful actions may have. You have the opportunity to be Jesus' disciples and make a difference in the world each and every day and wherever you may be, with your everyday faith. **You are everyday disciples! YOU** are armed with the courage and compassion of Christ who go out believing that God is at work in and through all that you do, - even the smallest acts of kindness and generosity.

Will this change or save the world? Perhaps not. But let's keep in mind that saving the world isn't our responsibility, rather it's God responsibility and promise. Trusting God to care for the whole world empowers us to participate in that work,- participate in God's kingdom – by caring for the people we find in our little corner of the world.

Your smallest acts of kindness and generosity done in faith are remembered. They have cosmic significance and make a difference beyond what you see. Each act of kindness and generosity done in the name of Christ is like a pebble tossed into the calm water and the little waves reverberate out and are gathered into God's work to love, bless, and save this world. Because that's the way it works. God's promises commission and create a new reality of hope, generosity, and possibility. A new reality that Jesus calls "the kingdom of heaven." And we get to be a part of it! Amen

Folk song : This land is your land- this land is my land

OUR RESPONSE

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE - ANDY KALNINS

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world. *A brief silence.*

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet

hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned *especially* Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

God of our country, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Provide for us all and protect us all. When times are troubled do not let our trust in you fail. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died and today we remember Kathleen Kauffeldt. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promises. Dear God, **listen to your children praying.**

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

THANKSGIVING

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.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on

this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer **Holy Communion**

BLESSING

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.**

Hymn ELW 779 – LBW 448 Amazing Grace

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

The singing of O Canada