

## Pentecost 2 June 14 2020 Worship at Home Lect A

### 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 ELW book. Prayers are from Sundays & Seasons.

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

### The Gathering

#### Call to Worship

Call to the Lord, who hears our prayers.  
Wait for the Lord, the source of our hope.  
Sing to the Lord, who delights in our songs.  
Let us worship.

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

**Hymn – I Love to Tell the Story! ELW # 661 or # 390 LBW**

[Click Here for the Youtube Hymn](#)

**1** I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

[Refrain]

**2** I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word.

[Refrain]

**3** I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

**Refrain:**  
I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

[Refrain]

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **The WORD**

**Psalm 100**

**Exodus 19:2-8a**

**Romans 5:1-5**

**Matthew 9:35- 10:8**

### **Reflection by National Bishop Susan Johnson**

[Click Here to view the video of Pastor Susan](#)

It is a real joy to be able to worship with you in this way today. This time of pandemic is, and has been, very challenging and tiring for all of us. Your bishops wanted to make sure that rostered leaders could take their vacations for much needed rest and that congregations would still be able to gather in worship. That is why we, and the synodical assistant to the bishops, are providing these sermons for use today through the middle of September. Because the harvest is plentiful but the workers are getting exhausted!

In our Gospel lesson today, we hear that Jesus has compassion on the crowds that were following him. I hope that during this time of pandemic you have felt Jesus close to you and having great compassion for you and for all God's children who are struggling now with the pandemic, with racism and police brutality, with homelessness, with hunger, with war and displacement, with loneliness and isolation and countless other needs.

Jesus continues to come to each and every one of us and speaks to us a message of hope, of love, of grace and of peace.

But that is not all Jesus says to us.

Jesus is still calling us, each and every one of us, to go out into the harvest to proclaim the good news in word and in deed. And please hear me now, Jesus is not just speaking to pastors. NO! This is a call to each of us who want to be followers of Jesus.

I know that some of you may be already starting to cringe. And it gets worse. Jesus warns us before we go that it is not going to be easy. In fact, it may be very hard.

However, let's remember that the realities of first century Palestine, living under Roman occupation and oppression, and our 21st century Canadian context are very different. Granted there are some worries and dangers now as provinces are opening up. Although we are now painfully aware that Black, Indigenous and other people of colour face more dangers. We all still need to take COVID-19 very seriously as we head out into the harvest.

So today, Jesus would not warn us about the possibilities of flogging or being dragged before governors and kings. Jesus might instead tell us to wear masks, wash our hands frequently, keep 2 meters apart, and to gather in groups of 25 people indoors and 50 outdoors as long as there is physical distancing. Or at least that is what he might say in Manitoba.

Our current reality is that we have learned during this pandemic time that there are people hungry for hearing the good news. I have heard stories across our church of inactive members returning to participate in online worship, of total strangers joining in worship, of larger attendances online than there were in person. I have also heard about amazing generosity both in terms of financial donations and in people continuing to be willing to contact isolated members, to provide worship leadership, to continue to run feeding and outreach programs within guidelines for safety and on and on.

We have proved in a crisis that we can be creative and responsive to God's call. We are reaching out and sharing God's good news in ways that we have never imagined and with effects like we have never experienced. Let's face it, we have been struggling for a long time about how to take evangelism seriously in this time and place. And I remind you that evangelism, sharing the good news, is a part of discipleship to which we are all called. Each and every one of us.

My mom and I have been reading Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We are trying a COVID-19 book club via Facetime. In his chapter on ministry, Bonhoeffer talks about evangelism as the ministry of proclaiming, one of the ministries that we are all called to take part in. For those of you who haven't read the book, or who haven't read it for

awhile, the other ministries Bonhoeffer calls us to are holding one's tongue, meekness, listening, helpfulness, bearing, and authority.

Bonhoeffer acknowledges our difficulty. He writes "Added to the fear of one's responsibility to speak there is the fear of the other person. What a difficult thing it often is to utter the name of Jesus Christ in the presence even of a brother!... Who dares to force himself upon his neighbour?" I know it's difficult and I know it's uncomfortable. But Bonhoeffer goes on to remind us it is our right and our responsibility to do so.

What I'm trying to say is that this topsy-turvy time we have been living through has shown us that people are hungry for God's good news of hope, love, grace, and peace. People are yearning to know that Jesus has compassion for them in their lives.

I'm asking you, I'm pleading with you, let us help each other to learn how to go out into the harvest so that we are ready when our cities and provinces open up to listen to the needs and the yearning and the opportunities to share a word of good news and invite people to come and see. To come and worship. To know the compassion of Jesus.

God bless and strengthen each and every one of you as we all continue to deepen our discipleship in answer to God's call. AMEN

**HYMN WOV # 755 or ELW 576 We all are one in Mission**

[Click Here for the Youtube video.](#)

**Prayers of the people prayed by Mark Boese**

[Click Here for Video of Mark reading the prayers of the people.](#)

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

Holy One, you bring us together and call us your own. Bless theologians, teachers, and preachers who help us grow in faith. Guide your church, that we might be a holy people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, the whole earth is yours. Where there is fire, bring cool air and new growth. Where there is flooding, bring abatement. Where there is drought, bring rain. Inspire us to care for what you have provided. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict, raise up leaders who work to develop lasting peace and reconciliation. Encourage organizations

and individuals who care for all forced to leave their homes. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, you care for those who are harassed and helpless. Protect and defend those who are abused. Empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors. Heal those who are sick especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, you provide a plentiful harvest of gifts and resources. Prepare us to labor and gather the fruits of this congregation, that we might discover new ways of living. Minister to us in our work, that we do not lose heart. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy One, you bring all people to yourself. We give thanks for the holy people who have gone before us. Sustain us in your mission until the day you bear us up to join the saints in light. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

**HYMN LBW #383 Rise up o Saints of God**

[Click Here for a video of Hymn 383](#)

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

**Dismissal** Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**