

Pentecost #2

6-14-2020

J.V.Trautwein

Celebrate (Introduction)

“Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God’s compassion with our needy world. From the Lord’s table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.”

Opening Hymn: [“Morning Has Broken”](#)

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!
Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted
² by the mouth of babes and infants,
thou hast founded a bulwark because of thy foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.
³When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars which thou hast established;
⁴what is man that thou art mindful of him,
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?
⁵Yet thou hast made him little less than God,
and dost crown him with glory and honor.
⁶Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet,
⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
⁹O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is thy name in all the earth!

Hymn of Praise: [“Praise To The Lord Almighty”](#)

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.”

1st Reading: [Exodus 19:2-8](#)

2nd Reading: [Romans 5:1-8](#)

The Gospel: [Matthew 9:35-10:28](#)

Hymn of the Day: [“Blest Are They”](#)

The Message ([Video](#))

After three long months, many of us who are able or who feel safe enough, are finally able to be together again. Even though the pandemic is far from over, with precautions we come together to celebrate being able to worship together again. After this long time we almost have to reintroduce ourselves. Through it all we have managed to endure the experience. Some may have even gotten use to the unique experience and adapted to the changes it brought about. This ability to adapt is valuable since we are told that this pandemic is far from being over.

There is little doubt that we have had to change our lifestyle, brought about by the restriction placed upon us. The sacrifices we have had to make in our lifestyle have had their effects upon how we now perceive life. As members of our society we have taken so much for granted. We have had the freedom to get in the car and go wherever we want, whenever we want without any restrictions. Whether it has been shopping, going to a restaurant, attending a sporting event or concert, traveling the world, or going to church that was never a problem for it was all there for us to personally experience. We had the freedom to do it all. The world was there to experience. Our perception of life was that the only limitations to life were those we placed upon ourselves or the wherewithal to experience it all.

All of that has now changed for the pandemic has affected us all. I am especially mindful of the sacrifices which our high school and college graduates have been forced to make. They were denied all the traditions of graduating. Instead of memories of a senior prom or walking across the stage to receive a diploma they will have memories of face masks and being basically homebound. My heart goes out to them. To the other extreme are those who live in senior facilities. The quarantine was severe for them and in many cases they tragically suffered the most losses and experienced the most fear. In all too many cases they were left alone without being able to see any family to comfort them.

Although living through sacrifice may have seemed to be overwhelming and even frightening at times we have come this far. For this we celebrate. In our celebration we now realize that life as

we knew it has definitely changed and will never be the same again. Perhaps we now will not take everything for granted and become a more grateful people for each other and the gifts of life; more grateful to be able to appreciate time to reflect and a slowed-down pace of life; more grateful to have the freedom to live out our lives without being fearful of the unknown; Hopefully our perception of life now will see that our sacrifices bring the awareness that every moment will bring new opportunities with new hopes and dreams.

We have all experienced sacrificing our life routines in one way or another. But this should not only bring a whole new meaning and purpose to life but the understanding that we have the strength and character to overcome major obstacles in life through God's presence. Paul in his letter to the Romans spoke of the suffering and persecution which the followers of Christ were experiencing. These words of Paul are so timely. He first wrote about the hope they had because of their faith in God's grace of sharing His eternal love. Then he continues, "Not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

I have found that this statement to be true. It is through sacrifice and suffering that we discover who we are and the inner strength we have in order to overcome that which at times brings life to a standstill. We as a nation and world community are experiencing the same crisis in life. If we come to this realization it should bring us closer as brothers and sisters for we are sharing the same sacrifices and suffering from the same deadly invisible enemy. It should bring us to a greater realization of what love is about. This is a great opportunity to begin to realize that we all share the same life and have the same hopes and dreams no matter where we live or the language we speak or the color of our skin. We all have the same love of life for we are all children of God out of His love. We all have the same hope that this time of suffering and sacrifice will soon end. With this hope the scientific community throughout the world has been working tirelessly to find a way to defeat this invisible enemy of us all.

If we didn't have enough on our plates we have again come face to face with the reality of inequality and injustice which the black community has been suffering for generations. The cruel murdering of George Floyd by a Minneapolis policeman seen on video by the world adds to the crisis we are experiencing. Perhaps if we were not under restrictions of various kinds of quarantine this tragic incidence would regrettably only get fleeting attention. But being tied to the internet and the TV has visibly brought this long standing injustice and inequality to the attention of everybody. Hopefully it is a wakeup call that during this time of change we have

the endurance and commitment to live the Gospel of God's love to change this downfall of society

Perhaps the crisis of the pandemic is the tipping point to bring about a new awareness of others and their suffering which need not be. Our brothers and sisters need not live in fear out of injustice and inequality. This is the perfect time to turn the present health crisis and a crisis of injustice into the beginning of living and acting in the way God' love has shown us through the gospels. Hopefully the present health crisis and the crisis of injustice will direct us to begin to live and act in the way God's love.

Even though both crisis continues, and will continue, we celebrate the fact that we are able to be here today. Hopefully this is with the realization that together in God's love we will strive to fulfill the hope of a new and better world for all. It is together, alongside of our brothers and sisters throughout our nation and the world, that we will begin to realize "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding." Therefore today we celebrate the hope of the beginning of a new life free from covid19, hate, and prejudice. It is then that we will be able to truly proclaim with the Psalmist, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song. Know that the Lord is God, our maker, to whom we belong; we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture."

The Anthem: ["The Impossible Dream"](#) Agne Giedraityte

The Offering*

We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

The Prayer

God of love and justice, the nation is in turmoil and needs the love your love to enter our lives. Give us the commitment and endurance to be your emissaries to this bring justice and love to all those who have suffered so greatly. Give us the wisdom and compassion to unite a broken society so the justice may overcome all inequity. Continue to bring endurance and safety to all those who are your healing hand to those stricken by the pandemic. Grant us that inner peace which will allow us to also experience all the gifts of life you have created for us.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Billy Jean Eddy & family, the Elshafei family, Betty Fultz, Darrell Garrison, the John Family, Robert Karner, Ray Lambert, Donna Mayhew, Bev and Jim Mertz, Nic Nelson, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Terre Rones, Paul Sagal, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Tommy Shimer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Randy Stephens, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and all those who are suffering pain, and sorrow as a result of this pandemic.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you;

The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters

Live on knowing God's love,

The joy of living this life of love,

And the peace which only come through the power of His presence within you.

So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["God of Grace and God of Glory"](#)

*Offering to be sent to:

Bob Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Road

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church

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