

We Are the Church: August 2, 2020

Week Ten: Discipleship / Growth / Stewardship



Musicians Today: Greta and Jason Wright

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.

L: Listen deeply to these words as we confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of God. 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.

L: 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.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Let us pray: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading: Acts 11:19-26

The Church in Antioch

L: The first reading is from Acts the 11th chapter.

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

The Second Reading: Acts 11:27-30

Leaders Lead by Example-Stewardship in Action

L: The second reading is from Acts, the 11th chapter.

²⁷ At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. ²⁹ The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; ³⁰ this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

The Third Reading: Matthew 14:13-21

The Feeding of the Multitudes: God's Providence in Jesus through the Disciples

L: The third reading is from the Gospel according to Matthew, the 14th Chapter.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON:

Pastor Dave Efflandt

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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.

OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this morning, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give. Amen.

A brief silence. The Leader continues.

We pray for the church throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For the spirit of resurrection within all believers. *A brief silence.*

For the newly baptized. *A brief silence.*

For the health of plants and animals. *A brief silence.*

For all who care for the earth. *A brief silence.*

For peace throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For an increase of justice in every land. *A brief silence.*

For those in need, those close to home, those far away. *A brief silence.*

For those who are hungry. *A brief silence.*

For the sick and the dying. *A brief silence.*

For our neighborhood. *A brief silence.*

For this assembly of worshipers. **(Any Special Petitions)** *A brief silence.*

For the desires of our hearts. *A brief silence.*

We give thanks for the lives of all the faithful who have died and who now enjoy the full presence of God. We pray that at the end we may join them in the resurrection.

A brief silence.

On this morning, O God, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship: Sunday at 9AM on the lawn; 10AM Zoom. Online available afternoon

→ Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday at 6:30 PM online via Zoom

→ Communion: August 8 & August 19

→ Campfire Worship at SJK: July 29, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Bible Studies

Thursdays at 9:30 AM via Zoom: Women of Faith

Saturdays at 10 AM via Google Meets: "Lamentations"

BLESSING

L: 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.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

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