



Christ and the Centurion (ca. 1571), Paolo Veronese, Museo del Prado

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Lectionary 20, Year A

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Lectionary 20 A

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein (Whenever We are in Deepest Need), BWV 641
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The chorale tune for Wenn wir was adapted from a hymn setting by the great reform psalmist, Louis Bourgeois. This setting is from J. S. Bach's Orgelbüchlein (Little Organ Book) collection, and it features one of the most beautifully ornamented melody lines in the entire collection. Bach also uses the exact same accompaniment in his chorale prelude Vor deinen Thron, BWV 668, which is thought by some to be the very last piece of music he wrote.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 67

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.

Let all the peo - ples praise you, O

God, let all the peo - ples praise you.

Psalm 67:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- ²**Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**
- ³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁴**Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the na- | tions on earth. REFRAIN**
- ⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.
- ⁶**The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **REFRAIN**

GOSPEL: Matthew 8:5-13

A centurion was a Roman soldier—part of the foreign military occupation of the homeland of Jesus and his disciples. And yet, Jesus commends the faith of the Roman soldier, and heals his servant.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

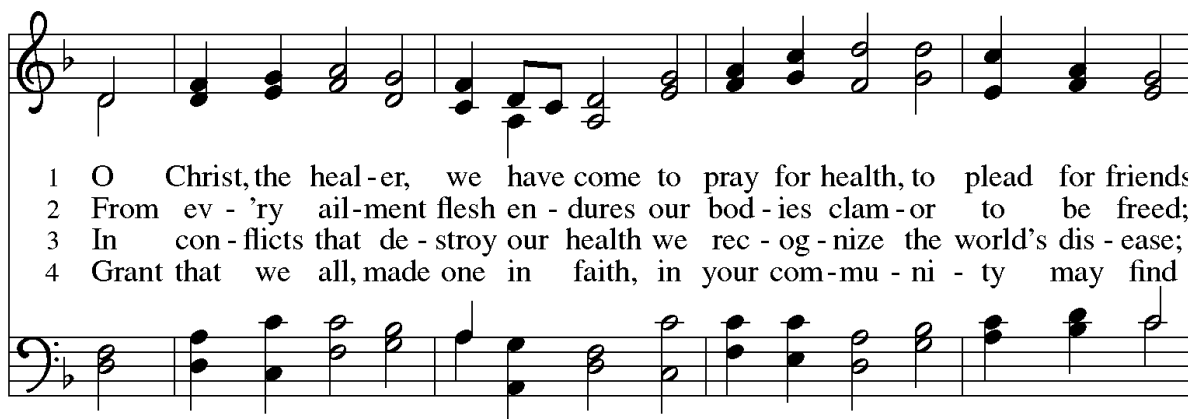
⁵When [Jesus] entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him ⁶and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.' ⁷And he said to him, 'I will come and cure him.' ⁸The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' ¹⁰When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

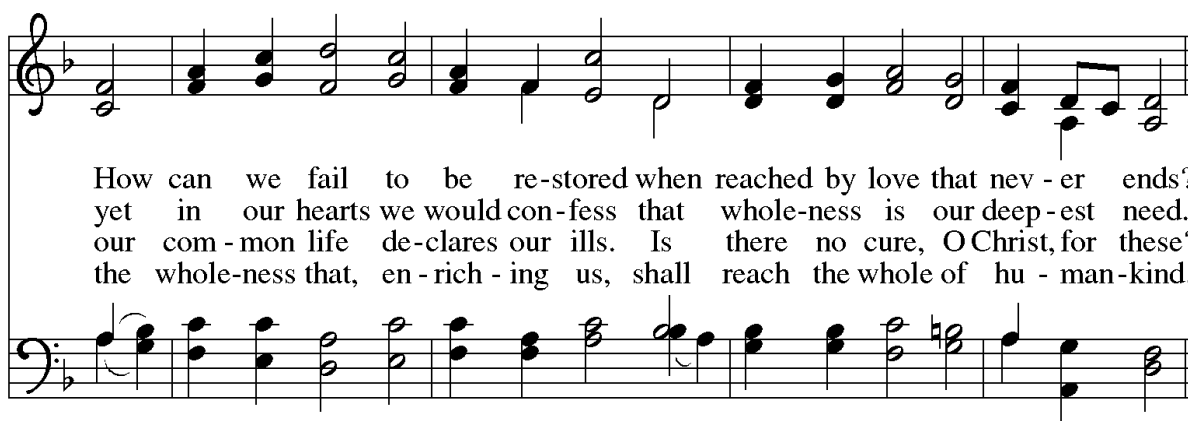
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
 2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 yet in our hearts we would con-fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.
 our com - mon life de-clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds "Hear our prayer."

Grateful for the privilege of prayer to a loving God, we offer petitions for the church, the world, and all in need.

Almighty God, in giving the law to your people you included instructions for a Sabbath Day, and scripture admonishes us not to give up meeting in groups. Keep bringing new resolve to your church in continuing to find new ways to keep the Sabbath with technology that makes it possible for us to gather even though separated. Work in us to reveal your purpose in the current imposed isolation. We believe you will know when we have had enough.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In a world gone awry with nations divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry, where human lust for power and selfishness denies justice, we pray that you would raise up leaders everywhere who do your will, maintaining justice and allowing you to direct their nation's destinies. Do not permit sin to rule the day, make your ways known, and turn godlessness away, that the nations may abide in peace.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Dear Lord, your people cry out for healing of body, mind and spirit. Bring health and wholeness to the ill, the infirm, the lonely and depressed. Assist the homeless and unemployed, the addicted, the fearful and the angry. Deliver them from dejection of spirit, and give them the strength and courage to bring all their grief to you, trusting in your abiding love.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. We give thanks for the saints of all times and places. Like them may we be shielded by your power until the coming salvation to be revealed in the last time.

Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Improvisation

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
 Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

Offertoire Sur les Grands Jeux (from the Mass for the Convents)
François Couperin (1668-1733)

French Baroque organ music is a school of composition that we do not hear often enough at Dove of Peace. The primary reason for this is that while our organ will eventually be able to play music from all eras and styles, many of the particular sounds that make French Baroque music unique have not yet been installed on the instrument. However, we do have most of our ranks of reed pipes installed, making this piece possible. The Grand Jeux refers to a particular registration based on the reed stops, creating a loud, bright sound. Only one collection of organ works by François Couperin survives, containing two settings of the French Organ Mass written by the then 21 year-old composer. This particular piece would have played during the offertory, and the Mass from which it is excerpted was written to be played in convents and monasteries in and around Paris.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Cantor: Eric Holtan
Intercessor: Dianne Huston
Lector: John Hoelter