

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (30.08.20)

GREETING

Grace, mercy and
peace from God
our Father
and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you.
and also with you.

Hold out your hands, God of grace,
and receive all that we offer.
Take our lives, our love
and all that we bring in faith today,
and use us and our gifts
for the well-being of the world.
Amen.

WELCOME

CONFESSION

God, who does not turn away from the truth about our life,
even unto death,
we confess that we have far less courage.
We often pretend to ourselves,
we often pretend to others,
and sometimes we even try to pretend in your presence.
If we are afraid to see who we have become,
if we are too grieved about our lives
to ask for forgiveness,
or if we are too proud to ask others for forgiveness:
Stand before us in the truth of your costly grace.

When our lives celebrate comfort and complacency
instead of the journey of faith,
when we close off the reality of the lives of others
because it demands a response we will not give:
**Speak before us in the truth of your costly grace,
Jesus Christ.**
**Speak into our hearts in new ways,
the ways of your faithfulness to us, O God.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even as we pray,
the life of Jesus
moves towards all that would destroy us,
healing, loving and bringing grace.
We are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

COLLECT

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READINGS

Jeremiah 15.15-21

O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,

for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Matthew 16.21-end

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PEACE

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12.9,17,18

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught his disciples, so we pray:

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness,
and protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.
Amen.

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

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