

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

With Eyes Wide Open

Hard Truth and Real Good

June 28, 2020



AS WE GATHER

Without the truly good news of the Gospel we cannot see the hard truth that we and all people are poor sinners who deserve nothing but punishment from almighty God. It takes the Gospel to open our eyes wide to the severity of God's Law, which our Savior took on Himself in our stead. In Jeremiah's day, and our own, false prophets proclaim an easy peace that requires little change in our daily living. Now, as when Paul was writing, some people in the Church think the freedom Christ won for us can mean a disregard for God's Law. And when Jesus was calling disciples, He had to warn them (and us) that some of their own family members would actively oppose their following the Lord. But the Gospel announces what is real and good: God has kept all His promises in our Savior Jesus Christ. His death shows the enormity of the punishment we deserve, and His resurrection assures us of eternal life. Because our Lord gave His life for us, with eyes wide open we can lose ourselves in service to Him and with the psalmist "sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever" (Psalm 89:1).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

SOLO Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 124:8; 130:3-4*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Because we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition and have sinned in thought, word, and deed, let us employ the faith the Holy Spirit has given us and go to our gracious heavenly Father, asking His forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God has given His only Son to bear the punishment of our sins on the cross so that we might know the peace of His presence now and the joys of heaven hereafter. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Pastor: O Christ,

People: **have mercy on us.**

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE MUSIC “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (Music Box 662, V 2)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit,
grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 28:5–9* (Jeremiah condemns Hananiah for preaching peace while God has exiled most of the people to Babylon.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO Minister Terry Dale

EPISTLE *Romans 7:1–13*

(The purpose of the Law is to show the gravity of our sin.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 10:39*

People: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Choir: *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

People: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 10:34–42*

(Jesus warns that following Him must take precedence over every relationship.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SOLO Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SOLO Minister Terry Dale

(Members, bring your Tithes and Offering and place in the Tithe Box)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the Church around the world and for all people in their various circumstances. In Jeremiah's day, most of the Israelites were in exile in Babylon.

Let us pray for people who are displaced from their homes, communities, and countries. Heavenly Father, use humanitarian efforts on every level to supply what they lack, until the eyes of world's power brokers are open to see their plight and put people's needs above their own political aspirations. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Prophets regularly "prophesied war, famine, and pestilence." Let us pray for refugees from warfare, those who lack the basic necessities of life, and all who are dealing with long-term ills or sudden emergencies.
Lord Jesus, use compassionate people and agencies to provide food, clothing, and shelter where they are needed; guide emergency and medical professionals as they tend those under their care; and open our eyes to see opportunities in which we may serve. [*Specific petitions may be added.*] Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Paul wrote that because we belong to one another in the Body of Christ and have died to the law, "we may bear fruit for God." Let us pray for ourselves and the Church wherever it gathers in Christ's name.
O Holy Spirit, strengthen us and our brothers and sisters around the world as we seek to give our lives in loving service to You, reaching out to the lost, strengthening the weak in faith, and rejoicing together as we receive the real good that comes to us through Word and Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: These and any other things You would have us ask, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, for we dearly desire to sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God the Father, who promised lasting peace; the ✠ Son, whose death and resurrection have made that peace real for all who call to Him in faith; and the Holy Spirit, who has opened our eyes that we may believe, bless you and keep you in His care today and forever.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN MUSIC "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" TLH 409 (Music Box 931 V. 4)

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**