



GUEST PREACHER
SERMON ON THE MOUNT
MATTHEW 5-7
7-26-20

All = bold sections – read together

Leader = regular font – leader reads (choose or rotate leaders)

Sung together = italics

NOTE: Please have a white candle ready to light.

Welcome

Good Morning! I am on vacation this week and Patrick Anthony from Escalon CRC is preaching for us at Bloomingcamps. Lauren and Colleen are leading the service. Our Triune God is many things for us. Focus and reflect on the descriptive words below (love, joy...grace, peace...courage, comfort). Where are you at this morning? What word tugs at your heart? Let God be this for you this morning.

May the love and joy of the Father, the grace and peace of the Son and the courage and comfort of the Holy Spirit be ours in abundance!

Call to Worship: Psalm 6 - To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments; A Psalm of David.

David is in deep anguish, but he is not in despair. He knows who his help is and where it comes from. He asks amidst his moaning, "How long?" Indeed, a great question. The answer is not forthcoming. It could be a short amount of time or a very long time, even to his death. Yet, David knows that evil will not have the final say in the future; that God is sovereign, even over evil and will in the end his prayer is accepted and his enemies will be put to shame. May our faith be as strong as David's in this Psalm:

O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long?

Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes. Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

Candle Lighting – Light the candle as a reminder that God is Light (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)!

King David was in a dark place but never lost sight of the light of God, the hope of God, the victory of God. We too are called to never lose sight of the light of Jesus Christ, the hope that we have in Jesus Christ and the victory we have in Jesus Christ. Because of his perfect life, his sacrificial and substitutionary death and vindicating resurrection, we have good news today. Because of Jesus we are loved. Because of Jesus we are united to him through the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus is the light, we can be a light:

Jesus is the Light. We are a light. Shine your light!



Song: How Great Thou Art -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc0QVWzCv9k>

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy Hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee.
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee.
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee.
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee.
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee.
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee.
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

Responsive Reading – Making All Things New

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – 1 Peter 1:3

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people. – Ps 149:1

See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. – Isa 65:17

In keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. – 2 Peter 3:13

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. – Eph 4:22-24

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – Romans 6:6



A new command I give you: Love one another. As Jesus has loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are His disciples, if you love one another. – John 13:34-35

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. – Psalm 71:3

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. – Isa 43:19

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. – Ps 96:1

Song: Jesus Paid It All -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaZbqDd33Yw>

*I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all. "*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

*Lord, now in-deed I find, Thy power, and thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone.*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

*For nothing good have I, where-by the grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white, in the blood of Calvary's Lamb.*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow*

*And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat.*

*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Centering Prayer

Pray this prayer slowly by pausing after line for a minute or so to reflect on what you are actually praying. Remember that prayer is always a response to what God is already doing. David was responding to the Sovereign God's activity over the evil in his life. This model prayer of Jesus is meant, for one thing, to be response to what God is already doing in this world and in our lives as we connect with this world. Reflect on the words of this prayer as response. What might God already be doing that it responds to?

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Pause

Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Pause

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors. Pause



**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, Pause
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen! Pause**

Offering

We remember that giving is an act of faith, a practice of hope and an expression of love.

(You can give by sending your offering to the church, P.O. Box 217, Oakdale Ca 95361 or consider giving online through your bank. Our deacons can help you with this if necessary.)

Youth Celebration

Youth: share one thing that you have learned from this pandemic about God or you as a Christian.

Adults: what might we learn about “child-like faith” from our youth during these times?

May we continue to deepen our simple (not naïve) child-like faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5-7 The Sermon on the Mount

Because there is a guest preacher this week, we will not be engaging the next passage in Matthew. Our guest preacher was also not required to submit a written sermon for this extended liturgy. So, for this week, please re-read the Sermon on the Mount in light of what we have been talking about regarding Jesus of Nazareth. Then, work through a few on the questions below.

For Further Thought/Discussion:

1. Discuss the relationship of being blessed with the reason for being blessed. For example, blessed are the poor in spirit. Why? “For there is the kingdom of heaven.: They are blessed because the kingdom of heaven in theirs and not because they are poor in spirit. Why does this make a difference?
2. We are called to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Our ultimate satisfaction should be found in seeking righteousness, which means to pursue God as our only source of fulfillment. What else in this world have you sought to fulfill you? Why did it fail to deliver true satisfaction? What keeps you from pursuing God as the only true source of fulfillment?
3. Read Matthew 5:16 Jesus teaches that the purpose of our influence is to expose others to the love of Jesus so that they would give glory to God. How do you see Jesus using you to show God to the people in your life? What areas of your life are distinct and different from the world around you? Where in your life is it challenging to be distinct and different?
4. How might you have allowed tradition to overshadow the commandments of God (Refer to Matthew 15:1-9)?
5. Matthew 5:38-48 how can I follow Jesus in this area of my life? What areas in my life do I need to stop retaliating and seek reconciliation instead? What are some practical ways I can begin to love my enemies as Jesus has loved me?
6. Matthew 6:1-18 Jesus says “when you pray,” assuming this is something his disciples will do naturally. What prevents us from praying regularly and frequently? When did Jesus pray? What can we learn from his example? How does The Lord’s Prayer help us learn to pray? What does The Lord’s Prayer teach us about God? What does The Lord’s Prayer teach us about community? How is righteous prayer an expression of our dependence on God? Why is it important?
7. Faithless-driven Anxiety: How often do you find yourself becoming overly anxious? Does this anxiety lead you to pray and to trust in God, or to more worry and anxiety? Why do you doubt God’s provision



for your life? Where do you think that stems from? What are some ways in which you've been laying up for yourself 'treasures in Heaven'?

8. Matthew 7:1-12 What are some ways you have been judged by others? How did that impact or affect you emotionally, mentally and spiritually? What are some ways you have struggled with a judgmental spirit toward others in your life (family, job, church)? Is Jesus telling us to never call out evil, sin or wrongdoing/ Why or why not? Why is a judgmental spirit so toxic to the church?

9. Matthew 7:13-23 Jesus tells us that we will be able to identify true relationship with him based on the "fruit" which we produce. How is your fruit? What are the things in your life that are a product of your relationship with Jesus? In what aspects of your life do you feel Jesus encouraging you to grow? Are there any aspects of your life that might be unhealthy that Jesus may want to remove or that he may be asking you to let go of?

10. Matthew 7:24-29 What does it mean to "hear" the Word of Jesus? How do you hear his Word in your life? What does your discipline (or lack thereof) in reading the scriptures say about whether or not you are hearing Jesus? Jesus teaches us his Word for us to follow, but the world also presents us with a "word" of its own. What other "words" from our culture or community compete for our attention and affections?

Communion Meditation

Remember, reflect and discuss the mystery of communion as both memorial of and a participation in Jesus of Nazareth.

Professing: (Apostles Creed)

**We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
We 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 and ascended to heaven
Where he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.
We 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.**

Proclaiming: 1 Corinthians 11:23b-25 (Paraphrased)

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it saying, "this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After the meal he took the cup of wine and pouring it out said, "this wine is my blood, a new covenant of grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins."

Remember and believe that the body and blood of Jesus was given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Song: In Christ Alone -- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENTL_li4GbE&feature=youtu.be

*In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground;*



*Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace;
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all.
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone who took on flesh;
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness;
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay;
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day;
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me!
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death;
This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath;
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand.
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

Sending as Disciples of Jesus: Matthew 28:18-20 (Paraphrased)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Therefore, as we are sent into the world by him, let us make disciples of all, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded us. And let us remember and treasure that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen!