

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

## Lectionary 21 August 23, 2020

### Treaty 4 Territory

***We are privileged to gather today in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Metis.***

### Welcome Statement

*You are welcome here, you, whose face does not resemble mine, whose spirit I may not define, you, whose eyes have seen, what I will never dream. You, whose frame is bent or broken, whose mind fears the unspoken. You are welcome here.*

*Regardless of your race, your age, your gender identity or expression, your marital status, physical and mental ability, your sexual orientation, country of origin, economic and religious status, you will be honoured here.*

*For Christ has made us whole and Christ has set us free. His daily grace enables us to live in harmony.*

### **OPENING HYMN - 576 We All Are One in Mission**

**GREETING** – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **And also with you.**

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.**

*Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 51:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;  
for Abraham was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
comfort all its waste places,  
and will make its wilderness like Eden,  
and its desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in Zion,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;

but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:** *Psalm 138 may be sung or spoken in response to the First Reading.*

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sub>1</sub> my whole heart;  
before the gods I will <sub>1</sub> sing your praise.  
<sup>2</sup>I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast <sub>1</sub> love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word a-<sub>1</sub>bove all things.  
<sup>3</sup>When I called, you <sub>1</sub> answered me;  
you increased my <sub>1</sub> strength within me.  
<sup>4</sup>All the rulers of the earth will praise <sub>1</sub> you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words <sub>1</sub> of your mouth.  
<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways <sub>1</sub> of the LORD,  
that great is the glory <sub>1</sub> of the LORD.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD is high, yet cares <sub>1</sub> for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty <sub>1</sub> from afar.  
<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sub>1</sub> keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right <sub>1</sub> hand shall save me.  
<sup>8</sup>You will make good your pur-<sub>1</sub>pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works <sub>1</sub> of your hands.

**Second Reading:** Romans 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.  
<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many parts, and not all the parts have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are parts one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:** Matthew 16:13-20 The holy gospel according to Matt. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son-of-Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the dominion of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then Jesus sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reflection**

HYMN OF THE DAY - 583 Take My Life, That I May Be (Spanish version)

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Held together in one body by the Spirit of Christ, let us pray for the church and the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your steadfast love endures forever." *A brief silence.*

Bless the church, that despite the hardships experienced during this pandemic, Christians around the globe will stand firm on the rock, who is Christ. Support pastors, deacons, and congregational committees during this difficult time. Give wisdom to churches that are considering when and how to resume their communal worship schedule. *A brief silence.*  
Unfailing God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless the earth, that it be saved from ecological harm. Restore all lands and seas to the beauty and vigor that you intend. Protect animals whose habitat is endangered. Train us to be gardeners of your creation. We pray for those suffering the effects of destructive summer storms and scorching heat. *A brief silence.*  
Creator God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless the leaders of nations, that they govern their people with integrity and attend to the needs of the poor. Give clear purpose to protestors and to police. Inspire our political parties and our elected officials to conduct themselves with honesty and respect for all. *A brief silence.*  
God of justice, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless our various means of communication, our phones, the internet, our postal service, and delivery businesses, that our communities be sustained for fruitful life together. *A brief silence.*

Merciful God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless students, that whether in class or at home they be kept safe and able to learn. Uphold faculty and families and protect all who will be affected by the opening of schools. Form college students to conduct themselves with maturity. *A brief silence.*

Benevolent God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless all who are in need; all who have tested positive for the virus; the sick and the dying. We pray for the unemployed; for medical workers; for those seeking a vaccine; for those who are overwhelmed with anxiety about the future. We pray for those we name here: Maureen, Terri, Lynne, Beth and those we also remember in our hearts.... *A brief silence.*

Compassionate God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

Finally, we pray also for ourselves, that with Christ as our rock, we can stand firm. *A longer period of silence.*

Merciful God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

We praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. We mourn the death of those we have loved. Bring us at the end, we pray, into the joy and gladness of life together in you. *A brief silence.*

Eternal God, hear our prayer: **your steadfast love endures forever.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Then conclude with these prayers:*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,  
for calling creation into being,  
declaring forgiveness from the cross,  
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:

**we praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,  
a mirror reflecting our selves,  
a shield providing us refuge,  
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey:

it nourishes our bodies like milk,  
it sustains your people like bread.

We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

We bless you, O God, for your Word:

**we bless you, O God, for your Word.**

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,  
and to all the cries of the needy.  
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,  
that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.  
To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath —  
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:  
**we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.**  
Amen. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN - 791 We Sing to You, O God**