



Confession & Forgiveness

All: God, we want so badly to do what is right. In our passion we forget to listen for your voice, forging ahead on our own way since we cannot imagine another.

We close our eyes to your image shining in the faces of the wrong people.

We close our ears to your word coming from those with whom we disagree.

We close our hearts against those who are different.

Instead, we offer advice, or ultimatums, or patronizing help, when what you desire is relationship, compassion, and justice.

One: Forgive us, O God.

All: Heal our hard-heartedness.

Shift our thinking.

Open our eyes.

Turn us to follow your way.

June 25, 2023
4th Sunday After Pentecost

Song of Lament

The River | Jordan Feliz | Beloved

Scripture

Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Song of Reflection

Who Am I | Casting Crowns | Casting Crowns

Prayers

Eternal God, we thank you for each new day you grant to us. Help us always to remember that it is you who have bestowed life upon us and it is to you to whom we give appropriate thanks. Help us in those moments when we take life for granted or when we have a tendency to grumble and complain.

Remind us then of whose we are.

We ask not to be reminded harshly, but to be reminded to pause and thank you.

Remind us to thank you for all of your blessings and your mercies to us.

Remind us to thank you for our dear ones.

Remind us to thank you for the Christian community and our siblings in Christ.

Remind us to thank you for those who provide us encouragement and vision.

Be with us on our journey as we seek to live out the words and teachings of Jesus. When fear would paralyze us give us the ability somehow to trust you, to know that we are of more value than the sparrows which are also under your watchful eye. When loyalties would divide us give us the ability to be like Jesus, the teacher and master. Help us to be his followers.

O God, there are those who find it difficult to be thankful because they are overwhelmed by the pains and anguish of their journey. Be a strong presence for them. Hold them gently and tenderly in your love and give them strength when theirs seems to be exhausted. Be also in all those places of the earth where folk suffer and use the resources of the Christian community in binding up their wounds. Amen.

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

**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.**

Love Your Neighbor

Find a way to reach out to your neighbors. Whether they live next door to you, or are neighbors who you have never met, extend yourself in friendship and love to those around you. Some examples: offer to help with yardwork, introduce yourself to someone you've never met before, or bake cookies and take them to your neighbors!

Sending

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✚ bless, keep, and sustain us now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

We go in peace to share the harvest!

Thanks be to God!

Sending Song

Ain't No Grave | Johnny Cash | American VI: Ain't No Grace