

## Pentecost #4

6/28/2020

Matthew 10:40-42

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### Celebrate (Introduction)

“The welcome of baptism is for all God’s children. This baptismal gift set us free from the power of sin and death. In today’s gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God’s merciful welcome.”

### Opening Hymn: [“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”](#)

Psalm 89: 1-4, 15-18

I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord,<sup>1</sup> for ever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup> For thy steadfast love was established for ever,  
thy faithfulness is firm as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup> Thou hast said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant:

<sup>4</sup> ‘I will establish your descendants for ever,  
and build your throne for all generations.’”

Blessed are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance,

<sup>16</sup> who exult in thy name all the day,  
and extol<sup>1</sup> thy righteousness.

<sup>17</sup> For thou art the glory of their strength;  
by thy favor our horn is exalted.

<sup>18</sup> For our shield belongs to the Lord,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel.

### Hymn of Praise: [“O Savior, Precious Savior”](#)

### Prayer of the Day

“O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** [Jeremiah 28:5-9](#)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** [Romans 6:12-23](#)

**The Gospel:** [Matthew 10:40-42](#)

**Hymn of the Day:** [“Thou, Whose Almighty Word”](#)

**The Message** (No Video – [Recorded Audio](#))

I don't know if you ever experienced meeting someone for the first time only to discover that they knew you. Even when they introduced themselves you still didn't know who they were. I know I have had the experience several times and having the feeling of embarrassment since they knew me and I didn't know them. This was especially true when they acted like they knew me for all my life. It always would turn out that they knew me through my parents or a longtime friend. They seemed to have a relationship with me although we never met face to face. This is establishing a relationship through a relationship with a third party or knowing someone through that third party.

In some ways we may be involved with such a tactic more than we think, . In establishing a new relationship with someone we just may mention the name of a mutual friend. This can especially be true when we may want something. This is called name-dropping. We use the name of a third party to gain entry into a relationship or gain a privileged position, or even to look good to someone else. I have seen this time and time again when fans of a particular person or thing get together. It becomes a one up-man-ship game.

This brings us to our gospel lesson when Jesus was giving instructions to His disciples. They were to be like Jesus. Their mission was to be same as if they were Jesus personified. People should have been able to not only see the disciples but also see Jesus in them. They would not have to gain attention by name dropping .nor would they have to explain their relationship with Jesus for the people would know they were closely associated with Him by their acts and message.

In many ways they were like a nation's ambassador. The most effective ambassador is when he or she is a living example of the nation they represent while on foreign soil. In turn a foreigner looks to the ambassador to understand the nation which he or she represents. They should be able to tell a lot about the nation in the very presence of its ambassador. Jesus was like an ambassador in that He said “And whoever sees me sees Him who sent me.” To be an ambassador for Jesus starts here It is through Jesus that we know God. “And whoever sees me see him who sent me.”

It is with this understanding that to know Jesus we must look to those who witnessed His life and teachings. The twelve were the chosen few to witness all that Jesus lived and taught. This is why Jesus commissioned His disciples to be His specially trusted ambassadors to those who Jesus didn't have the time to reach. Such a commission not only demanded a close relationship with Jesus but the conviction of believing Him. In this way, people would not only saw the disciple but would see Jesus in the disciples. It demanded that the disciples place their egos

aside so that Jesus was seen as central to their lives. They were to live this commitment no matter the consequences they may have faced. The result was that it is through the disciples and later apostles that Jesus would become known. Literally we see and know Jesus through them as we know God through Jesus.

The commission from Jesus does not stop with the disciples. He said, "Whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous." In other words, there are those who have gained an understanding of God's message of love through the disciples, They are those who continue to witness by being ambassadors during their lifetime. In and through them Jesus is communicated and then passed on to future generations. God's presence empowers them through the Holy Spirit to be this witness and to proclaim the Good news. It is through them that we would see Jesus.

Therefore we know Jesus through the apostles those who learn through the apostle and become teachers and witness of Jesus life and message throughout the many years. Then it comes down to you and me who are called to be His ambassador in our everyday lives. He said, "And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

You and I are the recipients of this lineage of good news which allows us to know God's message of love through Jesus. We are not only the recipients of a cup of cold water from all the saints of the past giving us hope and life but we are the ones to give the cup of cold water today. We are commissioned to give the water of life to this troubled nation and world in which we live. It is during times of turmoil in which divisiveness and hate, seem to be the goal of many, that we are needed to constantly and in every way possible be that ambassador of Jesus . This is by living the example of Jesus' life, the example of God's love. Each new day has been brought us more and more examples of a society in distress. But each new day also brings with it the opportunity to be that shining example of hope, peace, and love.

Sharing in this life, and especially as the Body of Christ, we must work together, regardless of any other social or political affiliation, in order to overcome the challenges we face. Our strength is in the fact that we all have been given differing gifts and talents. When these gifts and talents are encourage and utilize in a harmonious and coordinated way we become a powerful influence to help bring about the necessary changes. We, the Body of Christ can be that living example that although we came from different background, different races , different formal education, and economic circumstances, we can utilize these experiences together in order to find the wisdom to witness in a more meaningful way. Our goal must be as being one in Christ to reach the reality of righteousness.

In light of this, Paul's message to the Corinthians becomes so important. "As it is, there are many members, yet one body, the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you nor the hand to the feet I have no need of you. On the contrary, the members of the body that seems to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body, that we think less honorable

we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable member do not need this.” He then continues, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it, if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

These words of Paul not only apply to the Body of Christ but to the society in which we live. It is this message, as past-down through the lineage of witnesses and ambassadors of Jesus, must find life in today’s world. As Jesus’ ambassadors we must live and proclaim this loud and clear. We can no longer keep silent for not only the future of our nation and world are at stake but our commission to be followers and ambassadors of Christ are being tested. Through God’s presence within us we have the power to be that continuing lineage of saints who have stood strong in being the living example of God’s love throughout history. Tomorrow’s generation depends on us.

**Anthem:** [“Song of Peace”](#) F. Chopin - Agne Giedraityte

### **The Offering\***

We give thee but thine own, what-e’er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

### **The Prayer**

Our most merciful God, during these troubling times we come to you seeking the courage to be your ambassador’s of love. May we always find peace through the life of your Son. Give us the wisdom to find ways to touch the lives who are suffering economic hardships. Let us always be mindful of the blessing you bestow upon us.

We especially seek healing and comfort for Pam Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Billy Jean Eddy & family, the Elshafei family, Betty Fultz, Darrell Garrison, the John Family, Robert Karner, Ray Lambert, Donna Mayhew, Bev and Jim Mertz, Nic Nelson, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Terre Rones, Paul Sagal, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Tommy Shimer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Linda Stephens, Randy Stephens, Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and all those who are suffering pain, and sorrow as a result of this pandemic.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

#### **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you;

The Lord lift up His presence upon you and give you peace. Amen

And now my brothers and sisters

Live on knowing God's love,  
The joy of living this life of love,  
And the peace which only come through the power of His presence within you.  
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

**Closing Hymn:** ["Lead on, O King Eternal"](#)

\*Offering to be sent to:  
Bob Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills  
Ellicott City, MD 21043