

Pentecost #7

7-11-2021

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor

Vicar Karen Pugatch

Celebrate (Introduction)

“When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod’s fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed; all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God’s saving love.”

We come together in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Hymn: [“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”](#)

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

“Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts.^[a]
⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
¹² Yea, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
and make his footsteps a way.”

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

Prayer of the Day:

“O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.”

1st Reading: [Amos 7:7-15](#)

2nd Reading: [Ephesians 1:3-14](#)

The Gospel: [Mark 6:14-29](#)

Hymn of the Day: ["O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"](#)

The Message: ([Video Link](#))

Within a lifetime, in one way or another, most people have encountered many thousands of people. Most of these encounters may just be momentary in nature and seemingly quickly forgotten. Anytime we are amidst people these encounters may happen. It may just be an exchange of a smile or even the exchange of some kind of greeting. But most likely we will never see that person again. There are others who we may have many casual encounters like a cashier in the supermarket. Our past may bring to light many with whom we may have had more than a momentary or casual encounter but a more substantial relationship. This may involve a childhood or teenage friends, teachers or neighbors. As adults we make long-lasting relationships such as in marriage, in the work place, and social networks.

Regardless of the encounter whether momentary or long-lasting, in the distant past or of recent times, each encounter has left its imprint upon our lives. Each encounter becomes a part of our lives. We are in many ways a product of the totality of our living experiences. I am occasionally reminded of how our lives store certain experiences each leaving a lasting imprint upon our lives. For instance odors or fragrances, or tastes can bring to mind a particular instance in life and even maybe a person. Or, they may bring to mind a certain feeling or emotion which comes from something out of the past. This is also most certainly true with people who we may have encountered in the past even though for only a brief moment. In more than one occasion I have met someone or even seem someone who I knew I have seen or met before but cannot recall when or where or who they are. The image may haunt me for several days until I come up with the answer through recalling my many circumstances in life. Through the circumstances of life I may find the answer. Then I say to myself I knew I had met him or her.

Therefore often the process of remembrance comes when you begin to filter through the various circumstances or situations of life's experiences. To be certain the remembrance of a person is just a very small snapshot of who they are. To others that person may be a husband or wife, a father, brother or sister, or a close friends or fellow employee, or neighbor. The point is that people may be known in many ways and degrees according to the circumstances in which the relationship occurs. For instance two people may know the same person but out of different circumstances. When each describes that person you may just get a totally different description. It is like they are describing two different people. It is almost like "would the real person please stand?"

This was exactly the case with Jesus. Who was this Jesus anyway? What did his contemporaries think? It was according to the eyes of the beholder. It was according to the experience and circumstance of the relationship. For instance to his hometown people he was originally a

friend or a playmate, the son of just Mary and Joseph, from an ordinary family. But, later to them he became a productive member of the community in that he had a trade and worked as a carpenter. To these hometown folks He was just one of them but who had deserted them and even gone astray. They would not have recognized the description which His later followers would have given.

To those who were followers of John the Baptist perhaps He would have been another follower of the Baptizer or even a disciple of His. From their initial vantage point Jesus was baptized by John and one of John's followers which made all the sense in the world. But then there were those who seemed to hold the most popular view. These people were listed as being vast in numbers. Their view of Jesus was that He was a great miracle worker, one who healed and performed the most profound miracles. It seemed that His miracles and healings gave Him extreme popularity. Therefore, to the majority that is who He was.

To some who had bothered to listen to him He was a prophet even a prophet of old who had come back to life. Maybe He was even the greatest prophet Elijah reincarnated. A prophet was in general held in high esteem among the people since he was thought to be a special messenger of God. God spoke through the prophet. Even though what the prophet had to say may have been taken as offensive at first but, in retrospect, he was revered. It was an honor to be considered to be a prophet. So there were those who heard and followed Jesus so honored Him with that name. On the other hand, some in authority saw Jesus as a zealot or one who was organizing and stirring up the people to overthrow the Jewish establishment and Roman rule. To these people they formed their view as purely speculative and out of fear. They saw and heard either second hand or only what they wanted to see or hear which was blinded by the fear factor.

Of course then there were the close followers and His disciples who of His called Him Rabbi or teacher. It was to this smaller group of followers that Jesus had given the most time teaching. It was to this group the core of God's revelation was given. It was natural that they would have seen Him as a special Rabbi and special teacher from God. But then within the core of His followers, the disciples, that Jesus would begin to be seen as the Messiah. Even though their concept of the Messiah would change after the Resurrection they saw that there was a direct connection between God and Jesus. Remember that question which Jesus asked His disciples? "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" and they said, 'some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'"

People had varying thoughts and opinions as to who this Jesus was. These thoughts and opinions came out of their life's circumstances and relationships with Him. Now it is interesting to see King Herod's reaction to this Jesus. Jesus' popularity had evidently caught his attention so he naturally wanted to know more about this potential problem. When asked about this Jesus he refuted most of what he had heard in reference to Jesus. In no uncertain terms, Herod's response as to who this Jesus was, "John, whom I beheaded has been raised." Jesus to Herod was a conscience guilt trip. Knowing that he was the one to command the beheading of

John had played on his conscience. He had basically liked John but was too proud to go against his word and deny the request of the daughter of Herodias. Therefore when he was getting reports of a modern day Prophet just as John was called by many, his guilt trip took over. He resurrected John the Baptist in his own mind and out of his past experience.

The question for us is how do we know this Jesus and who is He in our lives? In answering this we must take into account that who Jesus was, and is, did not stop with Jesus life or even with the Bible. Even though The Gospels give us the answer as to this Jesus we tend to see Him with tunnel vision. We see Him as we wish to see Him so that He fits our suited needs and circumstances. This has been the case throughout the centuries and was the reason for the early churches controversies which led to the various creeds or statement of faith. During the 18th century the age of enlightenment people like Thomas Jefferson saw Jesus as a great moral teacher but by no means the Son of God. Today there are similar views and views which distort what is presented in the Gospels, It's like we mold a Jesus to our own liking. We even see Him as some kind of social necessity and standard bearer for our wishful thinking and even political views. He may even be a social nicety. But Jesus goes beyond all of this for he came to bring the message of God's love and forgiveness, a message which He lived among His creation. Jesus was that living message which gives that eternal love of God for all of us to accept or to reject. The question for each of us is, "Who is our Jesus?"

Anthem: ["Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"](#)

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

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

Father and Creator of all, we pray that love and peace enter the lives of all who are bitter, angry, full of revenge, and who are causing so much turmoil in our nation and world. Guide us in order that we may not only discover the root causes of such reactions but to find the ability and courage to find solutions. Through it all let us not be blinded to the truth and avoid rationalizations to support our egos. We pray that we find the wisdom to work towards the betterment of all mankind. Open our lives to the love you constantly show us so that we may become a part of life's healing.

We pray for all who need your comforting and healing presence especially Bob and Pat Allen, Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, the Cronin family, the Elshafei family, the Fultz family, the Johnson Family, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Elise Oliver, Peter Olsen, David Otto, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Linda Rigby, Colin Shea, Jerry Shea, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family,, Della , Yongyin Sun, Esther and Buck Trautwein, Linda Williamson, Wyatt Lee Wolf, Pastor Jack.

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 comes through the power of His presence within you.
So live on in Love, Joy, Peace, and Power.

Closing Hymn: ["Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"](#)

Announcements

Next Sunday, July 18, will be Vicar Karens last Sunday with us. We pray for her future Ministry with St John's Lutheran Church in Linthicum.

Night at the Ball Park in Frederick: The Frederick Keys, July 31st at 6:00 PM

Services will be outdoors unless inclement weather conditions force us indoors. Face masks and social distancing outdoors are not required. An email will be sent late Saturday afternoons stating whether indoors or outdoors.

*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
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291