Worship for Home

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST, YEAR A

September 6, 2020
The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

Opening sentence - Psalm 43:3
Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Psalm 119:33-40
33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, * and I shall keep it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; * I shall keep it with all my heart.
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, * for that is my desire.
36 Incline my heart to your decrees * and not to unjust gain.
37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; * give me life in your ways.
38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, * which you make to those who fear you.
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, * because your judgments are good.
40 Behold, I long for your commandments; * in your righteousness preserve my life.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
The Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20
(read the passage, then reflect/discuss the questions below)

| Our Gospel today jumps directly into the complexity of following Jesus in community. How would you summarize Jesus’ point? Does your reading of the text change when read in the context of verses 12-14, and if so, in what ways? |
| The final step that Jesus lays out is this: in the case of the person refusing to listen even to the church, that they be treated as an outsider. How did Jesus treat outsiders such as tax collectors, sinners, and Gentiles? How then are we called to treat those with whom conflict resolution conversations or calls to repentance do not seem to resolve? |
| Many times we take the final verse, verse 20, as a stand-alone text. Reading it in its context, though, how might that change our experience of conflict to know that Jesus is in the midst of it, loving all people involved? Where might Jesus be calling you to step into an important and possibly difficult conversation with someone? |
The Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Collect of the day
Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A prayer for mission
Gracious and loving God: You call us to set a table in the wilderness, offering nourishment to all who desire it. Give us warm hearts and creative spirits as we seek to gather new communities of faith with your welcoming table at their center and your generous love as their mission. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our Brother. Amen.

Offer prayers for ourselves and others

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom
Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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