

the fifteenth sunday after

# pentecost



*September 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.*

Gathering and Welcome

Rev. Todd Smith

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Voluntary

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Call to Worship

Lynda McRee

Leader: In the same way, let your light shine before others,

People: **that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Hymn #139

*Come, Thou Almighty King*

Prayer of Confession and Lord's Prayer

**Righteous God, You have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all. We confess we have not bowed before Him, and we are slow to acknowledge His rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world and fail to be governed by Your justice and love. In Your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim Him as ruler of all, that we may be His loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Name we pray ... Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

(Silent prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri*



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it



was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be, world without end. A-men, A-men.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Children's Lesson

Chrissie Galliher

Prayer for Illumination

Lynda McRee

First Lesson

Luke 23:39-43

NT p. 89

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding<sup>[a]</sup> him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah?<sup>[b]</sup> Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into<sup>[c]</sup> your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

***Sermon Bullet Points***

- ♥ The story of Lazarus has within it the greatest of Jesus’ Miracles
- ♥ The miracle is astounding but Jesus focus, as always, is on its purpose.
- ♥ This is the ultimate proclamation that he is indeed the Son of God.
- ♥ His purpose: this miracle would inspire people to understand this truth leads to salvation.
- ♥ The choice of belief and acceptance ultimately is up to each individual.

## *Sermon Summary*

What is the essential truth that the thief is facing? That essential truth was death. He Knew that he was coming to the end of his life. He was facing a pain that he considered totally unbearable and was looking for hope in a hopeless situation.

He finds it in the man dying next to him. Realizing the inevitability of his physical death he clings to the promise of life eternal life in the person of Jesus Christ. In his last moments of life he gains an eternal gift. A gift Jesus alludes to in today's Second Familiar Scripture.

Jesus receives news that his good friend is deathly ill. Those around him we expected him to rush to his aid providing healing they had seen so often. Jesus says not to worry this sickness has a point and will reveal glory of God, so he stays. Jesus Knows that, at this time, Lazarus is dead and returning to Judea anyway.

Last time he was there he nearly was killed. Disciples did not understand why he would go there in first place and especially now that Lazarus is dead in fact Thomas feels that to go to Judea is certain death and resigns himself to the fact that they will be killed if they return.

The focus of this story is not on the miracle but on the result. The result of the miracle is belief. Messiah and that even death has not the power to bind those who believe. This is found in these words "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

Act was performed so those there would believe this man indeed was the messiah who has the power to loosen the bonds of death. He and he alone. Therefore we have a choice in this life, to choose to believe, receive the promise the thief on cross, Lazarus, and every other believer has, not to believe, and in doing so rob ourselves of the joy of a life lived in walking in the greatest miracle of them all, the miracle of faith. Or receive and live a live with a promise of the eternal.

Hymn #316

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.*

Hymn

*Softly and Tenderly*

Benediction

Postlude

Kirsten Fitzsimmons

# Come, Thou Almighty King

139

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

*Collection of Hymns for Social Worship, 1757; alt.*

Felice de Giardini, 1769

1. Come, Thou Al - mighty - y King, Help us Thy name to sing,  
2. Come, Thou In - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy might - y sword,  
3. Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
4. To Thee, great One in Three, The high - est prais - es be,

Help us to praise: Fa - ther, all - glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic -  
Our prayer at - tend: Come, and Thy peo - ple bless, And give Thy  
In this glad hour: Thou who al - mighty - y art, Now rule in  
Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - ereign maj - es - ty May we in

to - ri - ous, Come, and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
word suc - cess; Spir - it of ho - li - ness, On us de - scend.  
ev - ery heart, And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.  
glo - ry see, And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

316

Edwin Hatch, 1886

TRENTHAM SM

Robert Jackson, 1894

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly Thine,  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,

That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.  
Un - til with Thee I will one will, To do and to en - dure.  
Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
But live with Thee the per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.\*

# Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system is marked 'Refrain' and includes the words 'Come home, come home!' and 'Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,'. The score concludes with a final vocal line and piano accompaniment.