

**WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN – THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD ELW 824**

1 This is my Father's world,  
and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;

his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world;  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world;  
he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft  
so strong  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your 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.**

### **READINGS AND PSALM**

#### **Genesis 22:1-14**

*The testing of Abraham*

#### **Psalms 13**

I trust in your unfailing love, O LORD. (Ps. 13:5)

#### **Romans 6:12-23**

*No longer under law but under grace*

#### **Matthew 10:40-42**

*Welcome Christ in those he sends*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see attached prayers)**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.  
**Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

***At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.***

**Communion Blessing** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness

and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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 us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**LIFE IS SHORT  
AND WE DO NOT HAVE  
MUCH TIME TO  
GLADDEN  
THE HEARTS  
OF THOSE WHO  
TRAVEL WITH US  
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE  
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND  
AND GO IN PEACE  
TO LOVE AND SERVE  
THE LORD**

ALBERT FREDERIC AMIEL

**The Sermon for June 21, 2020** The narrative in Genesis for today is the story of Hagar and Ishmael cast out of the camp by Abraham, at Sarah's request. It's not a happy story. Abraham, the father of nations, has what the lord promised. A son to carry on his name, to create a great nation. Just as God promised to him. And In you, God tells him, all the nations of the world will be blessed.

But there's just one problem. When Sarah and Abraham were not able to conceive a son, they solved their problem by Abraham sleeping with Hagar, Sarah's handmaid. And they had a son, Ishmael. But that son isn't needed anymore. God saw to it that Sarah conceived in her old age, and gave birth to Isaac. Well, now everything is good – that great nation is coming, and all will be blest. Except Ishmael is in the way. At least Sarah things he is. He is a reminder of when they didn't trust God. But, he is a little boy. A person. Flesh, blood, dreams and hopes. And Abraham tries to sweep him off the stage of their lives. And God appears to assent to this – It's Isaac he says, where your nation will be built.

Hagar leaves the camp with enough water and food to be comfortable perhaps a day, and goes into the wilderness. She casts her son beneath a bush, and goes to sit a bows shot away so she can't hear his suffering. And cries out to God. God hears but also hears the boy crying under the bush. Arise, hold him fast, God says, for I will make of him a great nation. That seems to be a theme with God, making great nations. And they go off, Hagar and Ishmael, and they make a life, and a nation – history will record the descendents of Ishmael are the nation of Islam. People of the book, just as the children of Israel are people of the book. God is worshipped in both camps, and the people prosper. And the world is blessed through both nations. But, of course you know the story of the Middle east. Tribe against tribe, One nation against another nation, for hundreds of years. Bloody wars, conflict and strife. And families and children and plenty. Not so different from the continent I live on – north America, where faction stands against faction generation after generation. The players seem to change – and fight shifts – I can think of loyalists versus patriots in the revolutionary war, north versus south in the civil war. But always, it seems, we look for some group to marginalize – we're better than they are, that's for sure. I cannot imagine God is honored in these conflicts, in these selfish spats. This week, we commemorated the 5 year anniversary of the killing of 9 innocent men and women at Mother Emanuel Ame church in Charleston south Carolina. An act of hate, filled with racial slurs. The young man who killed those people was baptized and confirmed in a Lutheran church just like ours. That's the part that hurts me the most. I can remember the faces of each young person I have baptized, each one I have confirmed. I remember them all as eager, as engaged, and open to what the world had to offer. I find it hard to picture any of them capable of murder and hate. And yet, here it is. In front of us. How will we, as people who love God, and shun divisive behavior, find a way forward after having this legacy of hate in our midst? Fear not, we are told, God has heard the voice of the boy where he is, under the bush. God hears. And in the picture in my mind of Hagar and the boy walking away from total loss, hand in hand, toward what their God has to offer, I find some peace. God's hand is on those two. God's hand is on the murderer of the Emanuel 9. God's hand is on us. Can we learn from these horrific stories, and lean towards the grace of God offered freely? We are certainly forgiven my friends, for all that we confess to God, and probably more than that. Can we reach out to that forgiveness as our touchstone? This life is really not about being right, and others being wrong. This life is about forgiveness, about grace, and about challenge to life into these gifts with humility.

I am humbled by the love of God that reaches out to me when I am in need. May God give me, and all of you, the humility to see where you and I need to be forgiven, to change, to become people of God's promise – focused on the rights of others, and the kindness needed so that through each of us, all the nations of the world will be blessed. Amen – Pastor Patricia+

**Praying together at Holy Cross – June 28, 2020**

**This summer, we are ‘searching for significance’ in this life of faith. When the world is full of change, we could choose to ‘lay low’ and wait for things to blow over. Or we could search for our own significance as the Body of Christ. We pray, Lord, for your help and guidance as we journey together toward that goal.**



**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response.**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for those folks we know struggling – with falls, and illness. Be with everyone who is ill or injured in our world. (*specific people are mentioned here*)**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray respect, calm and reason in these days when arguments become bitter and folks act out in spite. (*specific people are mentioned here*)**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for students and parents as they find their ‘summer vacation’ changed this year. (*specific people are mentioned here*)**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for people struggling with isolation and fear, or disharmony in their relationships. (*specific people are mentioned here*)**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time. (*specific people are mentioned here*)**

**Lord, in your mercy**      Hear Our Prayer

**We pray for Holy Cross leadership as we plan the reopening of our place of worship. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.**

**HOLY GOD**

**YOU ARE WITH US**

from the spinning planets in our



to the



that lives on the tiniest paw  
of the tiniest **mouse**.

you care for the

**CREATION**

&

you care for

**US**

Whether we are out in the

**WORLD**

or tucked  
inside our

**Home,**

we know that You are as **CLOSE** as the

**AIR THAT WE BREATHE.**

Thank You for being our friend and comforter.

**Amen**