

Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☞ Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us out to serve.

☞ O.K. We Will!

Baptismal Water Is Thicker than Blood

Many, perhaps most, subcultures in North America affirm the belief that “blood is thicker than water.” Even when our commitment to family is too often served through hand-wringing sentiment over the so-called decline of the family or pandered to by politicians seeking to prove their “family values” credentials, we like to think of ourselves as loyal to our own kin. Family comes first! In the gospel, Jesus sharply, alarmingly, contradicts the norm; he snubs his nuclear family, his blood.

We discover that Jesus’ family is not defined by objective or biological categories—DNA tests, adoption records, or custody papers—but rather by *function*: Jesus’ family consists of those whom God has called into mission and are engaged in that mission.

Bringing a child of God from birth to maturity of faith requires many things, among them food, shelter, new birth, story, discipline, catechism, and an enduring hope in the one who raised Jesus from the dead. It is a joy to be celebrated when these gifts are provided by those who live in one’s own household—parents, grandparents, extended families. But Jesus reminds us (with an echo from Paul) that even when those nearest to us thwart God’s purposes, we “do not lose heart” but trust that God will call and create a household “not made with hands,” where God’s purposes for us will be nurtured and we will become like the one who “does the will of God.”

There is a strong challenge here to Christian communities to keep their focus on the mission of God and not be tempted to confuse God’s mission with what’s “best” for nations or communities or (even) nuclear families.



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THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 10, 2018 5:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

- ☞ We gather on this day, ☞ to praise our God, who is our strength.
- ☞ We gather on this holy day, ☞ to join with Jesus in relieving the burdens of others.
- ☞ We gather in this sacred space, ☞ to be fed by the Spirit with grace and hope.

THE ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- ☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
- ☞ Amen
- ☞ Trusting God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept

- ☞ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and one another.
- ☞ **God of mercy, on ordinary days without realizing it we often crush others under the weight of our unrealistic expectations. We knock down friends and neighbors as we think only of ourselves. Without even realizing it we bully those around us with our words and selfish gestures. We worship strange gods—plastic cards, athlete, celebrities, self fulfillment—as we turn away from**

you. We forget how you have set us free, when we turn our backs on the strangers around us. As a result, we are weary in trying to live for ourselves. Gracious God, we pray for your forgiveness. Amen.

P Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God † forgives you ALL your sins.

G Amen

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G And also with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-15

Immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, they hide from God. Neither takes responsibility for their sin, instead blaming each other, the snake, and even God. The curse on the snake was understood as a messianic prophecy by the early church, who associated Eve's "offspring" with Christ.

⁸[Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

L This is the Word of the Lord! **G Thanks be to God!**

P Lift up your hearts.

G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

**G 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.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

G Amen.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Jesus Christ, host of this meal,

G you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen

THE BENEDICTION

P May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Son, and

your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.”³³ And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?”³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord! ☞ **Praise to you, O Christ!**

THE SERMON

Pastor Layne Nelson

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

☞ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☞ **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**

THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE (Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**)

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

HOLY COMMUNION

☞ The Lord be with you

☞ **And also with you**

PSALM 130: (read responsively)

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you is forgiveness,**

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸**For the LORD shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 3: 20-35

In response to charges that he is possessed, Jesus wonders aloud how anyone who is demon-possessed can cast out demons. Those who do the will of God are possessed by the Holy Spirit, sisters and brothers of Christ.

[Jesus went home;]²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and