

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Apostolic Greeting

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

A: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 636, How Small our Span of Life

How Small Our Span of Life



1 How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
2 And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
3 O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
4 We thank you, God, for kind-ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch-ing of a breath,
our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
to share the short-ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
il - lu - min - ing our pil-grim-age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with-in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,
You filled your cross-closed years with love; you loved us to the end
for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass-ing days;



a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.
for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KINGSFOLD, English traditional

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Prayer of the Day

P: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

¹[King Ahasuerus] and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.²On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”³Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request.”⁴For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.”⁵Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?”⁶Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.⁹Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.”¹⁰So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

^{9:20}Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,²¹enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,²²as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

R: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 124

¹If the LORD had not been on our side, let Israel now say;

²**if the LORD had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us,**

³then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;

⁴**then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us;**

⁵then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

⁶**Blessed be the LORD who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**

⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸**Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and

have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

R: The word of the Lord

A: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

P: Alleluia.

A: Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth.

P: Alleluia. The holy gospel according to St. Mark

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P: The gospel of the Lord

A: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 822, Oh, Sing to the Lord

Oh, Sing to the Lord *Cantad al Señor*



1 *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
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 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2 *Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

4 *Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

3 *Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

5 *¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

Prayers of Intercession

P: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

P: We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for natural wonders of your creation (*local waterways, forests, and natural areas may be named*). Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, acolytes, and ushers (*other roles may be added to reflect your context*). Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **A: hear our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **A: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always! **A: And also with you!**

Announcements

Offering Prayer

WA: Generous God,

A: you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you!

A: And also with you!

P: Lift up your hearts!

A: We lift them to the Lord!

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P; 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 is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

A: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Our Father,

A: who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

Communion Distribution

Communion Song

“My Faith Will Stay,” by Cheri Keaggy

“Be Glorified,” by Chris Tomlin

Prayer after Communion

WA: Tender and merciful one,

A: at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

P: Signed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, you are Christ's message of love for this troubled world, written by the same Sender. May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ✠ comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

A: Amen.

Sending Song: “Be Glorified” by Chris Tomlin

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life the air I breathe
Be glorified in me

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life the air I breathe
Be glorified in me

You set my feet to dancing, you set my heart on fire
In the presence of a thousand kings, you are my one desire
And I stand before you now with trembling hands lifted high
Be glorified

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life the air I breathe
Be glorified in me

Oh yeah you set my feet to dancing, you set my heart on fire
In the presence of a thousand kings, you are my one desire
And I stand before you now with trembling hands lifted high
Be glorified

Be glorified in me, be glorified in me
Be glorified in me, be glorified
Be glorified in me, be glorified in me
Be glorified in me, be glorified

You set my feet to dancing, you set my heart on fire
In the presence of a thousand kings, you are my one desire
And I stand before you now with trembling hands lifted high
Be glorified, be glorified
Be glorified, be glorified

Dismissal

WA: Go in peace. Christ is your light.

A: Thanks be to God.