



The Fifth Sunday in Lent – Zacchaeus

March 21, 2021

8:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and placed us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy all who thirst,
and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ, our living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord of all, we are quick to judge and slow to accept those whom we consider different than ourselves. But you show us the way of acceptance, forgiveness, and peace. We honor your name for teaching us to love, for the sake of the one who is the essence of love itself, Jesus Christ our loving Lord.

Amen.

PSALM

“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place”

Twila Paris

A paraphrase by Marty Haugen of Psalm 84 appointed for this day.

NARRATIVE READING

Luke 18:31-19:10

Today’s narrative reading is from Luke:

³¹Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³²For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. ³³After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." ³⁴But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you? He said, "Lord, let me see again." ⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." ⁴³Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Song of Penitence”

Ludwig Van Beethoven

CREEDAL POEM

Together we express our faith in the words of Joe Davis' creedal poem, "Grace is like an ocean."

Grace is like an ocean
And the Spirit hovers over the face of these waters
Yet we're not meant to play it safe by the harbor
We are all drawn deeper and farther
Called into relationships to travel seas uncharted

Like raindrops
On our cheeks and our chests
Our tears and our sweat
Connecting our bodies, our blood
Streams of consciousness collected in
Pondering ponds, puddles, swamps, and gutters
Wandering waters so often huddled where we're taught they don't belong

However far from the garden—
Life grows wherever the water flows
In the cracked concrete of a city street or even in the desert heat we can still find the
budding of rose

Only our imagination limits where Holy Spirit moves
Like a flood
Breaking gates and walls
Baptizing beyond the lines of society
And our comfort zones
The raging waves make mountains, and shape diamonds cut from stone, gentle drops soak
the soil where the smallest seed becomes the tallest oak

No place too high or too low, too remote or too close
Grace explodes and unfolds
The tides are ever changing and giving rise to new hope

Remember these waters where it all begins
Where we all belong
All gathered, all called, all sent
Grace is the water in which we all swim

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We gather our prayers using a sung response

Gathered into one, let us pray for the church the world and all those in need.

Lord, in your mer-cy, hear our_ prayer.

Li - sten to our cry.

Each petition concludes:
[Sung Response]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that you always hear our prayers.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray as our Savior taught:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in D Minor

Johann Pachelbel

PREACHING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe
PRESIDING Pastor Melissa Pohlman
ASSISTING Seminarian Sarah Hanson
ORGANISTS Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio, Isaac Drewes
SOLOIST David Gindra
VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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Prayer of the Day – <http://www.narrativelectionary.org>*

Chancel flowers today are given by the CLC Quilters in celebration of Carol Henderson's 85th birthday on March 27.