



James Preaching from a Boat by James Tissot

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

*Please continue to care for yourself and your neighbor
by wearing your mask and maintaining safe social distancing
during worship.*

Confession

P : In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

*P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that
confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that
trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the
Christ.*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

**C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended
you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote
myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your
boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit
that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a
life obedient to your will and your way.**

*P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast
love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our
Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in
the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

Prelude

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Psalm of Praise

*P: O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

**C: The Lord has made known his salvation;
has revealed God's righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

God remembers his steadfast love and faithfulness . . .

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

*Sing praises to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of melody.*

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

*Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.*

**Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord,**

for he is coming to redeem the earth.

**God will rule the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

C: Mighty God, by the Spirit we boldly confess that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from Your love for us. Keep us strong in this conviction despite the evidence presented to convince us otherwise. For we live in the hope of Your surprising wisdom revealed through Your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Entrance Hymn

733

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:

all I have needed thy hand hath provided--

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]*

Lesson

Ezekiel 17

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Say now to the rebellious house: Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them: The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, took its king and its officials, and brought them back with him to Babylon. He took one of the royal offspring and made a covenant with him, putting him under oath (he had taken away the chief men of the land), so that the kingdom might be humble and not

lift itself up, and that by keeping his covenant it might stand. But he rebelled against him by sending ambassadors to Egypt, in order that they might give him horses and a large army. Will he succeed? Can one escape who does such things? Can he break the covenant and yet escape? As I live, says the Lord God, surely in the place where the king resides who made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant with him he broke--in Babylon he shall die. Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in war, when ramps are cast up and siege walls built to cut off many lives. Because he despised the oath and broke the covenant, because he gave his hand and yet did all these things, he shall not escape. Therefore, thus says the Lord God: As I live, I will surely return upon his head my oath that he despised, and my covenant that he broke. I will spread my net over him, and he shall be caught in my snare; I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there for the treason he has committed against me. All the pick of his troops shall fall by the sword, and the survivors shall be scattered to every wind; and you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken.

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.
I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.
On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.
All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the Lord.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

*Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.*

**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

*May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.*

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.**

*May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.*

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

*In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.*

**May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

*May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.*

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.**

*May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.*

**For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.**

*He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.*

**From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Long may he live!

May gold of Sheba be given to him.

*May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.*

**May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.**

May his name endure forever,

his fame continue as long as the sun.

*May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy.*

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.**

Blessed be his glorious name forever;

may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen and Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel _____ Matthew 13:31-32

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

While Jesus was still on the boat and the crowd was gathered on the beach he told them a third parable.

"The kingdom of the heavens is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the heaven come and make nests in its branches."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

452

*We plant a grain of mustard seed,
and in our faith we find*
**The proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind.
The proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind.**

*Our actions, more than words, define
how love's example feeds*
**A greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds;
A greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds.**

*When stooped to lend a helping hand,
we find a touch that heals,*
**For love invested will expand
to bear the fruit love yields.
For love invested will expand
to bear the fruit love yields.**

*Make love our purpose, love our aim,
for love endures all things,*
**And choosing love our lives will claim
the peace forgiveness brings.
And choosing love our lives will claim
the peace forgiveness brings.**

*Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown*
**And by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known.
And by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known.**

Mary Bryan Matney

**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.**

Offering is Presented

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us Pray

C: In thanks for all the blessing of life, for work and rest, for food and shelter, for love and laughter, for beauty and harmony, we return these offerings to You, O God. We pray that our thanks is pleasing in Your sight, that what we offer is used again for sustenance and growth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Prayers & The LORD'S Prayer

Benediction & Dismissal

Grace's Congregation Council has affirmed that Grace will be following the new NYForward Phase requirements, maintaining the closure of the building other than for Sunday Worship and cancelling and postponing all Grace Events at least until the Mid-Hudson Region reaches Phase 4. Grace will continue to abide by the requirements for Mask-wearing and Social Distancing imposed by NY State.