

## **Worship Plan for Sunday, June 03, 2018**

Lectionary 9

Proper 4

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, June 03, 2018

### **Introduction to the day**

Deuteronomy makes clear that sabbath-keeping is meant for the welfare of all. God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, so they should not ever work anyone else seven days a week. Even slaves should be able to rest; even resident aliens. Yet human beings can turn even the most liberating religious practice into a life-destroying rule. Jesus does not reject sabbath-keeping, but defends its original life-enhancing meaning. Our worship and our religious way of life are to lead to the hungry being fed and the sick being healed.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Deuteronomy.

*Part of the Ten Commandments, these verses instruct the Israelites to keep the Sabbath. The Israelites are to rest and they are to allow their slaves, their livestock, and the foreigners living among them to do the same. They were once slaves, and so they are to treat their own slaves justly.*

<sup>12</sup>Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>14</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you.

<sup>15</sup>Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 81:1-10**

Raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob. (*Ps. 81:1*)

<sup>1</sup>Sing with joy to | God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the | God of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**Raise a song and | sound the timbrel,  
the merry harp, | and the lyre. R**

<sup>3</sup>Blow the ram's horn at | the new moon,  
and at the full moon, the day | of our feast;

<sup>4</sup>**for this is a stat- | ute for Israel,  
a law of the | God of Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup>God laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, going out over the | land of  
Egypt,

where I heard a voice I | did not know:

<sup>6</sup>**"I eased your shoulder | from the burden;  
your hands were set free from the grave- | digger's basket. R**

<sup>7</sup>You called on me in trouble, and I de- | livered you;

I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the  
wa- | ters of Meribah.

<sup>8</sup>Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:

O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

<sup>9</sup>There shall be no strange god among you;  
you shall not worship a foreign god.

<sup>10</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. R

## **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

*When we carry out God's ministry we do so not for our glory but for the sake of Jesus Christ whom we proclaim as Lord. The power for ministry comes from God, not us, so that we persevere no matter what, trusting in God's power and promises at work through us.*

<sup>5</sup>We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. <sup>11</sup>For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup>So death is at work in us, but life in you.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 2:23--3:6**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus challenges the prevailing interpretation of what is lawful on the sabbath and tells his critics that the sabbath was made for humankind, not the other way around. Healing the man with the withered hand is work that cannot wait until the next day.*

<sup>23</sup>One sabbath [Jesus] was going through the grainfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? <sup>26</sup>He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup>so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

<sup>3:1</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world that God so loves.

*A brief silence.*

God our strength, you command your people to keep sabbath. Coax your church away from the busyness of the world and give us holy rest, so that, refreshed, we will give vibrant witness to your world-healing love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our strength, you restore what is withered. As all creation stretches forth in hunger and thirst for you, revive what has ceased to flourish and repair what has fallen into decay. Make us partners in your holy healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our strength, we ache for peace. Teach nations that you carry our burdens, you free human hands, and you rescue us in distress. Raise up leaders in the world who listen to your voice and walk in your ways. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our strength, people are afflicted and perplexed, persecuted and struck down. Shine the light of your glory into the hearts of your suffering ones (*especially*) so that they will not be crushed, driven to despair, or forsaken. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our strength, you grieve our hardness of heart whenever we turn your holy counsel into rules to control others. Open our hearts to your loving will for these times, for our neighbors, and for this community of faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our strength, death is at work in us, but life is in you. Free us now to live into your promise of indestructible life and, in the end, restore us with all the saints (*especially the Martyrs of Uganda and John XXIII, bishop of Rome*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.