

Worship Plan for Sunday, August 27, 2017

Lectionary 21

Proper 16

12th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, August 27, 2017

Introduction to the day

In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Isaiah.

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,

and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

**² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all
things.**

³ When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

**⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth. R**

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

**⁶ The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right |
hand shall save me.

**⁸ You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the
works | of your hands. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Romans.

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by this age, but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what

is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.

¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our rock, provide a strong foundation for your church on earth. Unite it in joyful praise, service, and mission. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make deserts into gardens and the wilderness into Eden. Restore the clean and pleasant beauty of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You shine the light of justice on the nations. Deliver us quickly from evil, protect the defenseless, and bring peace to warring lands (*especially*).

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You renew our minds and transform our bodies. Wait with all who seek a cure or long for relief from chronic pain. Bring comfort and healing to all who suffer illness in spirit, mind, or body (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give gifts to all. Build up this assembly. Increase our generosity, compassion, and cheerfulness. Lift up from among us prophets, ministers, teachers, and diligent leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your salvation lasts forever. Console us here on earth until we join all who praise you without end. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

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