



# 45A LITURGY PENTECOST 4

In the name of .....

## Abstract

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,  
and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.  
Matthew 10:40 (NIV)

45A Liturgy Pentecost 4  
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In the name of ...

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020 | AFTER PENTECOST | YEAR A

### PROPER 8

#### *Old Testament & Psalm, Option I*

*Old Testament*     Genesis 22:1–14

*Psalm*                Psalm 13

*or*

#### *Old Testament & Psalm, Option II*

*Old Testament*     Jeremiah 28:5–9

*Psalm*                Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18

*New Testament*    Romans 6:12–23

*Gospel*                Matthew 10:40–42<sup>1</sup>

#### Matthew 10.40-42

Jesus concludes his teaching on mission by stressing the close identification between Father God, Jesus himself, those who go in his name, and those who receive his followers in the right spirit.

**This week's resources explore:** welcoming and being welcomed as Gods representatives.

	<p><b>Pre-Service</b> We are God's hands – Andrew Chinn and friends</p>
	<p><b>Introit</b></p>
	<p><b>Greeting</b></p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p><b>and also with us</b></p>
	<p><b>We Gather</b></p> <p>The steadfast love of the Lord is here for ever. His faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. The Lord invites us and welcomes us.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

	<p>Let us worship the Lord.</p> <p><i>Let us Pray</i>          Loving God, we gather in response to your invitation;          we gather, welcomed by you.          May the warmth of your welcome          inspire and strengthen the worship we offer to you.          In Jesus' name.          Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b>          The Steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases</p>
	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><i>Let us pray</i>          God, your Spirit draws us into your presence,          and so we come – drawn by love, upheld by grace –          to encounter Jesus, our Saviour.          We know him as our master.          We know him as our friend.          In him we see the Father, whose love sent Jesus to us.          Spirit, Son and Father,          we draw close in faith to offer our praise and worship.          Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <p><i>Matthew 10:40–42</i>  <sup>40</sup> “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” <sup>2</sup></p> <p><i>respond</i>          For the word of the Lord  <b>Thanks be to God</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song/video</b></p>
	<p><b>We say Sorry</b></p> <p>We are sorry, Lord,          for the times we judge others and find them wanting.</p>

<sup>2</sup> [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

We are sorry  
that we turn away from your children in their need.

We are sorry  
that we think we are too busy.

We are sorry  
for the times our welcome has been lukewarm.

Forgive us,  
and help us to remember the warmth of your welcome,  
and to be inspired to share that warmth with all people.

Amen.

### Hymn/Song

TIS #658 – “I, the Lord of the sea and sky (I the lord of the sea and sky)”

### Response

I have a dream ... goes one of the greatest lines of all time.

Well I think every parent has a dream from time to time  
and it goes like this . . .

Your child is in someone else’s home.

As they finish the meal,  
your child spontaneously  
without being asked  
gets up from the table with their plate and even grabs another few plates,  
and takes them into the kitchen  
and look I know this is too much  
but actually puts them either in the sink or in the dishwasher.

Ever had that dream.

Ever lived with the eternal hope  
that the ten thousand times we have told our kids  
“pick that up” and “put that in the trash”  
and “did you forget where the laundry basket lives?”  
will finally “stick”?

Our reading today are also meant to be read as reminders  
not about household cleanliness  
but about teaching a new generation of disciples  
about being thoughtful, compassionate, helpful, and loving followers of Jesus.

Discipleship is, by definition,  
something that is “learned.”

The Greek word for disciples means learner as well as follower.

Jesus himself said, “Learn of me.” (Matthew 11:29).

Part of what it means to be a “disciple” is to teach a new generation of disciples.

I suppose that the “World Cup” will be another victim of the COVID-19 bug this year.

Some years ago  
one of the big stories out of Rio was not about a winner,  
but about a loser.

Japan lost its opening game to the Ivory Coast.

Okay, there is always a winner and a loser.

But what has hit the heart of the world is not so much the outcome  
but the aftermath of this match.

When most nations lose a match, the fans go ballistic.

Britain is especially known for its rowdiness after a loss . . .

its football fans taking to the street, overturning cars, burning tires, breaking windows.

But when a Japanese team loses,

the tradition is for the fans to take to the stands and clean them up.

That's right,

Japanese fans show honour and respect to the winner by cleaning the stadium.

*click in and out*

In Japanese culture it is extremely rude not to pick up after yourself.

Part of the Japanese tradition

is that you bring your own trash bags to parties and picnics in public.

I would like to suggest that the path to discipleship

is the path of learning to live

not as human nature dictates

but as Spirit nurture dictates.

It is human nature to litter ...

whether what we litter is our food

or our mood and the way we interact with others.

For example it is human nature to strike back.

But our human nature needs nurturing ... divine nurture,

and only by the nurturing of the Spirit

does our human nature learn to clean up after itself,

learn to stop littering

learn to turn the other cheek,

learn to walk the second mile,

or give the extra coat.

Parents teach their toddlers to do what doesn't come naturally

not to bite, not to hit,

to be polite, and to live peaceably with others.

These are "baby steps" in becoming a loving human being.

In the same way there are also baby steps

in becoming a dedicated, devoted follower of Jesus.

In this week's gospel text

Matthew provides the disciple community

with some new "rules and regulations"

that define the behaviour

of those who would want to be called "disciples" of Jesus.

These behaviours were striking and strange in the first century.

They are still striking and strange in the twenty-first century.

For a mature, master disciple of Jesus,

there are no rules except Jesus.

If Jesus rules your life,

The Jesus Rule will cover every situation.

As Augustine put it famously  
 “Love God, and do what you will.”

Whenever you hold your peace,  
     through love hold your peace;  
 Whenever you cry out, through love cry out;  
 Whenever you correct, through love correct;  
 Whenever you spare, through love you should spare:  
 In all things,  
     draw from the root of the love that is deep within you,  
     because nothing but good can spring from this root.

When the love of God rules,  
     all of life’s, thoughts, words and deeds will yield to that love.  
 If our love of God is real to you,  
     then truth flows naturally from that love.

As Paul put it in 1 Corinthians 16:14,  
 “Let all that you do be done in love.”

That means we are to welcome in love  
     the stranger and the strange as if they were Jesus.

Jesus called all those who would follow him  
     to “welcome a prophet in the name of a prophet.”

He also called upon his followers  
     to welcome “the righteous,”  
     and to offer a cup of cold water to the “little ones.”

It might be reasonable to think Jesus’ list of 3 types of people to be nice to  
 a trifecta of histories losers.

- Prophets were never appreciated till a couple hundred years after they died.  
 In their own lifetime they were either ostracised, or stoned.
- “The righteous” were never called righteous during their lifetime.  
 Instead they were deemed to be annoying  
 and in the way of political progress.
- The “little ones,” those vulnerable people, like defenceless children,  
 or those without any kind of social or political power  
 were usually the hidden invisible group in society.

Here Jesus is worrying about those no one else worried about.  
 Jesus is being kind and considerate to those no one else took seriously.  
 Jesus’ words and witness said something different to the convention of the time  
 and to human nature.

The message Matthew 10:40-42 communicates to the Christian community,  
     whether in the first century or the twenty-first century,  
     is that Jesus is always among us  
     waiting to be welcomed into our midst.

Whether it is as a “prophet,”  
 or as a “righteous person,”  
 or as one of the “little ones,”  
 Jesus’ welcoming presence is always palpable  
 if not always palatable to the world.

Being a “prophet,” being a “righteous one,” being a “little one,”  
 doesn’t mean we need to part the Red Sea  
 or save the world from some invasion by Godzilla.

It means embracing our God given “gift” .

It means adding your gift,  
 your own special presence and perception of the Spirit  
 into the world,  
 into that mundane meeting, supermarket encounter, tearoom,  
 into everywhere you go in your life.

Jesus said, “find me everywhere.”

That is what we are called to do each day.

Welcome Jesus in whatever form or frame he appears to us.

In the face of the stranger or the strange.

It can’t be done by human nature  
 but it can become “second nature” by means of Spirit nurture.

In this Pentecost season

allow the spirit to rule your heart and everything you do.

Amen

### Hymn/song

TIS #650 – “I the lord of the sea and sky”

### Prayers for all people

*Think about the following questions:*

*When you arrived at church today, how were you welcomed?*

- *Did you feel welcomed – was there anything at all that didn’t feel welcoming?*
- *How did you decide where to sit?*
- *Who is sitting near to you – what did you say, if anything, to them when you arrived?*

*Now, imagine that you are a stranger entering the church for the first time.*

- *How might you respond to the same questions? (Repeat the questions.)*
- *Pray for guidance in welcoming both friend and stranger.*

Lord, thank you for all the welcomes we receive.

Help us always to be welcoming as well.

We pray for those on the fringes of society;

for those who feel rejected;

for those who are overlooked;

for those whom others avoid.

May they know the welcome of your love.

We pray for those who are lonely.  
May they know the welcome of your love.

We pray for those in prison; especially those kept in isolation.  
May they know the welcome of your love.

We pray for children excluded from school; for their families and those with responsibility for their education.  
May they know the welcome of your love.

Loving God, as you welcome us, may we welcome others with warmth and steadfast love.  
Amen.

### Communion Hymn

TIS # 535 - "I am the bread of Life"

### CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Today we will celebrate Holy Communion again,  
not as we have always done  
but in the same spirit as we have always done.  
There will be those who choose not to celebrate Holy Communion in this way,  
but instead choose to wait until they are able to physically meet.

We respect your decision,  
but for those who wish to celebrate,  
I ask you to have your own bread and wine  
(maybe a glass of juice or even water if you choose)  
and continue to share with us.

The Invitation  
Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.

*Let us pray*  
Be present, risen Lord Jesus,  
as you were with your disciples,  
and make yourself known to us  
in the breaking of the bread;  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you!  
**And also with you!**  
Lift up your hearts!  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**



	<p>It is right that we should always give thanks to you, O God for making your love evident since the very beginning of time when you spoke the word which brought the world into being.</p> <p>We give thanks that you are not a distant God, But one prepared to respond to the cries of those seeking refuge and strength in times of trouble. You eased their fears by speaking words of hope and justice to them through the prophets.</p> <p>You communicated your love anew by entering our history in the person of Jesus Christ. He spoke words of healing and wholeness and love; love - which like yours - is unending and unconditional.</p>
	<p>And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we rejoice before you and praise your holy name saying:</p> <p><b>Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!</b></p>
	<p>Lord, we give thanks that you gave your Son Jesus Christ, to be for us the way, the truth, and the life.</p> <p>At his baptism in the Jordan your Spirit came upon him declaring him to be your beloved Son. With your Spirit within him he resisted temptation; proclaiming justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight for the blind, and liberty for those who are oppressed.</p> <p>He emptied himself of self-serving power, and filled with the empowering love of your Spirit, he loved people to the uttermost limits of love, giving himself over to death to defeat the power of evil.</p> <p>On that never-to-be-forgotten night, the night of his betrayal, as he sat at the table with his friends, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you." When supper was over, he took the cup, gave you thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this all of you; this is my blood, poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."</p> <p>On that never-to-be-forgotten day when you raised him from the dead, he was recognised by his disciples in the breaking of the bread,</p>

	<p>and in the power of your Holy Spirit your people have continued in the breaking of the bread and in prayer. When we eat this bread and drink from this cup we experience anew the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ .</p> <p>Remembering his death and resurrection, and his promise to be with us always, we pray that you will send the power of your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, blessing this sharing of bread and wine, Christ's life in us. Send us as your witnesses into all the world, empowered by your Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we are bold to pray</p>
	<p><b>Lord's Prayer</b></p> <p>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</p>
	<p><b>The breaking of the bread</b></p> <p><i>The minister lifts the bread and breaks it in full view of the people</i> <i>The minister lifts the Bread and cup in full view of the people</i> We break this bread and take this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ. God's gifts for God's people.</p>
	<p><b>Lamb of God</b></p> <p>Lamb of God, you find us in our blindness <b>Lift us up.</b> Lamb of God, you lead us to your fold. <b>Hold us close.</b> Lamb of God, you conquer all injustice. <b>We cry for peace.</b></p>
	<p><b>Distribution</b></p>

Receive this holy sacrament  
of the body and blood of Christ,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Words such as the following are said before or during the distribution.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God,  
we praise, worship and adore you for the food received at your table.  
You have sent your Holy Spirit among us,  
to make our eating and drinking here a memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
We go from here, strengthened, refreshed, and empowered by your Spirit  
to make our living and working, our loving and doing and thinking,  
a true and joyful memorial of him.  
We look to that day when,  
with the great company of witnesses that surround us,  
we may eat and drink and be glad with him in the glory of your kingdom.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### **Hymn/song**

Come people of the risen king - Getty

### **We are sent out**

Go in the name of Jesus,  
to follow the way of Jesus,  
to love with the love of Jesus,  
and to be sustained by the peace of Jesus.

May the Lord bless us  
and keep us  
May His face shine upon us  
and be gracious to us  
May he lift up His countenance upon us  
and give us peace

### **Benediction**

**Thank you**



