



46A LITURGY PENTECOST 5A

Learn from me

Abstract

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28–30

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46A Liturgy Pentecost 5A

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SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020 | PENTECOST 5A | PROPER 9 | YEAR A

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67

Psalm Psalm 45:10–17 or Song of Solomon 2:8–13

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Zechariah 9:9–12

Psalm Psalm 145:8–14

New Testament Romans 7:15–25a

Gospel Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30¹

Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Jesus notes that both he and John the Baptist failed to meet people's expectations. Jesus thanks God that the point of his ministry has been revealed to the simple rather than the wise and calls on people to learn how to live from him.

This week's resources explore: how God's wisdom, revealed in Jesus, confounds expectations.

	<p>Pre-Service 18 O Lord Your Tenderness _ Such Love</p>
	<p>Greeting</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>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'</p> <p>Let us come to the Lord Jesus.</p>

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

Let us come to seek his rest.

Let us pray

We are here today, Lord, to worship you.
As we bow our heads before you,
we want to be amazed by your wisdom,
bowled over by your love,
and completely lost in you.
Lord, open our hearts to receive you,
in ways beyond whatever we could ever ask
or even think.
Amen.

Hymn/song

TIS #693 – “Come as you are”

Welcome

Let us pray

Father God,
we are here today,
to praise you, to learn from you.
Your wisdom, shown to us through Jesus,
your most precious Son,
is far greater than that of the world.
It has the power to confound all our expectations.

We approach you now as children,
sitting at your feet,
bathed in your love,
hanging on your every word.
Speak to us, Lord.
Amen.

Readings

Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

¹⁶ “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷ “‘We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’

¹⁹ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

	<p>²⁷ “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.</p> <p>²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.</p> <p>²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” ²</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video TIS #690 – “Beauty for Brokenness”</p>
	<p>We say Sorry Dear Lord, it doesn’t always sink in just who I am talking to when I come before you. I don’t fully get it, that I’m in the presence of such a mighty God.</p> <p>Please, Lord, forgive me for the times when my picture and understanding of you are far too small; when I try to fit you into that tiny box that I think I can cope with; when I’m frightened to let your power loose in my life. Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole. Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/Song TIS #655 – “Spirit song (O let the Son of God enfold you)”</p>
	<p>Response</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Take my yoke upon you and learn from me Matthew 11:25-30</p> <p>We haven’t been told a lot about what Jesus was like before his ministry years as described in the bible.</p> <p>One legend suggests that Jesus the carpenter was one of the master yoke-makers in the Nazareth area. People would come for miles for a yoke, hand carved and crafted by Jesus son of Joseph.</p> <p>When customers arrived with their team of oxen Jesus would spend considerable time measuring the team, their height, the width, the space between them, and the size of their shoulders.</p>

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

Within a week, the team would be brought back
 and he would carefully place the newly made yoke over the shoulders,
 watching for rough places,
 smoothing out the edges and fitting them perfectly to this particular team of
 oxen.

I imagine that's the yoke Jesus is describing in today's reading.
 We read in verse 30,
 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Of course the word 'easy' in modern English in the modern age has many meanings,
 like nice and love.

The root word in Greek for 'easy'
 Describes something that is tailor made, well fitting and comfortable.

The yoke Jesus invites us to take,
 In one that exactly fits our wearying lives
 One that bears the load we bear in our lives.

It's a yoke that doesn't rub us nor cause us to develop sore spirits
 and it is designed for two.

God's yokes are always designed for two.
 And our yoke-partner is none other than Christ himself.

Certainly, this reading in our world today has special significance.
 We live in a world that is gripped by a pandemic of a virus, violence
 and tensions in our lives, our families and in our world.
 We wonder when it will end, and when it does (if it does) what our world will
 look like.

But, throughout our scriptures is a theme that ours is a burden bearing Christ.
 He is not just a Lord whom we burden, and we do,
 but a Lord who seeks to help us carry our burdens.

I want us to ponder this with you. To be effective in life we must first be free from our
 burdens.

I would suggest to you that ours is a burden bearing Christ
 who sets us free from the burden of sin,
 but only after we have seen how much our sin burdens him.

I dearly love my 2 ½ year old granddaughter and she loves me.
 But like any child, there are times when she is self-willed, even defiant.
 It's hard not to laugh as she takes her stand, and sometimes she wins.
 then, as if she becomes aware of the cost of her defiance,
 she will come and have a cuddle in my arms.

I wonder if God sees me as I see my granddaughter.

I am certain we are all blinded to sin. None of us are guiltless.
 There is not one of us this morning that doesn't depend on the grace of Christ

for the great burden that we have placed upon Him.
 It is our sin, ours, that placed Him on the cross.
 But listen afresh to the words of our Lord:
 "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Christ relieve us from the burden of sin,
 he relieves us from the burden of self-righteousness.
 It is often hard to accept the discipline that Christ appears to place upon us.
 we need to keep ourselves fit with study and education and prayer
 resisting the temptation to become lax ministry or self-indulgent.

But sometimes we just feel like we want to give up.
 We say: "Lord, I cannot take another step."

But today we read
 Jesus is there to share our burdens with us.
 And he promises the yoke will be easy around our shoulders
 and the burden will be light.

Christ relieves us from the burdens of sin and righteousness
 so that we can then be free to do the real work that he has called us to
 and that is bearing the burden of someone else.

All the Old Testament from the Mosaic Law to the Prophets is fulfilled in one word:
 "You are to love one another as Christ has loved you."

There is a story about a little boy who was out helping dad with the yard work.
 The area around Ballarat is dominated by volcanic soil
 and rocks often appear to grow like grass.

A father asked the boy to help pick up the rocks in an area of the yard.

As he went on with his own work, the father was impressed with the vigour and good
 humour

the boy put into his work, quickly making an impressive pile of rocks.

But then there was silence, and the good humour evaporated.

As Dad looked over, he saw him struggling to pull up a huge rock buried in the
 dirt.

The little boy struggled and struggled and finally gave up

"I can't do it. I've used all my strength and it just won't budge" he said.

The little boy looked hurt

The father smiled and said, "No you haven't used all your strength. You didn't ask me to
 help."

The father then walked over and then the two of them pulled that big rock out of
 the dirt.

There are great and good works to be done at home, at work and in the world.

It may seem impossible that you have been chosen to perform them.

But yoke yourself with Christ and the two of you will do them and more.

In a world that is so stressed as we are,
 it is so easy to see the task of healing the world around us
 as a burden that is too heavy.

But through faith, the work of revealing Christ in this world becomes possible.
 The two are related and inseparable.
 We cannot simply have faith and we cannot simply do works.
 We have a mission beyond the doors of this church
 and alone we will never be successful.

I wonder if we are willing to pray hard enough and long enough
 that the church may be a place where
 not only the burdens of sin and righteousness are loosened,
 but where God's people are called in love to bear the burdens of others.

I am convinced that we are willing.
 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
 for I am gentle and humble in heart,
 and you will find rest for your souls."

Amen.

Hymn/song
 tis #665 – "Jesus Christ is waiting"

Prayers for all people

Lord, sometimes we feel as if we're on a fast train.
 Life rushes by and we don't have time to pause.
 Lord, we want to take time to see the view
 that your wisdom, through Jesus, gives us;
 to come to you in prayer,
 expecting far more than we could ever believe possible.
 Bless me with your presence, Lord.

Response

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

May they find rest for their souls.

We pray for all in authority, that they will be respectfully
 conscious of the weight on their shoulders, and that they will act
 responsibly for the people they serve. We pray for them in their
 personal lives, with the worries and cares that only they see.

We pray for our friends, family, colleagues. We pray that as we
 walk alongside them, you will use us to bring them close to you,
 and they will learn of your love.

We pray that we might be sensitive to the needs of those around
 us – the people we see every day, perhaps as fleetingly as at the
 shops, or in the bus queue. We have no idea what burdens they
 are carrying, or if they need a kind word from you that only we can give.

We pray that we will see the positive in people, even when it's

	<p>hard, and reach out to encourage them. Lord God... Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS #647 – "Comfort- comfort"</p>
	<p>We are sent out Jesus has called us to come to him and blessed us with his richness. Now he sends us out into his world, to make sure people see him, and listen to him, through us. What a responsibility, what a joy, what a privilege. We are yours, Lord. Use us as you will. Amen.</p> <p>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</p>
	<p>Benediction 18 O Lord Your Tenderness _ Such Love</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>