ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HANOVER, PA

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

Prayer of the Day

Leader: Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us

with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in

you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Cong.: Amen.

The First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you.
 O hope of Israel,

its savior in time of trouble,

why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night?
9Why should you be like someone confused,

like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?

Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people:

Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah?
 Does your heart loathe Zion?
 Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us?
 We look for peace, but find no good:

for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you.
²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us.
²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers?
Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

The Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Prayers of the People

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need.

(A brief silence.)

Leader: Only you are righteous, O God. Lead your church to true faith and repentance so that we may reflect your light and your truth into the world. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You are The Creator, O God. Be with those who lack for anything in this world, and teach us to provide for them as your stewards of love and resource. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: Only you can judge the nations with righteousness, O God. Raise up holy leaders to guide your holy people, that together we may bring your joy and peace into the world through humble hearts. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You can bring true healing, O God. Be with all who hurt, grieve, or crave your forgiveness. Comfort all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit, especially those we lift before you now in the earnest prayers of our hearts. (P A U S E) Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Leader: You know the depths and hardness of our hearts, O God. Call us forth from our sins of separation, segregation, and all our "us and them" arrogance. Open our hearts to love with the same love you bear for all people that we may do your gospel together. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

Leader: Those who live in your kingdom know your joys, O God. Keep us safe by your grace until we join the great and eternal host of saints singing your praises before the throne of your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Cong.: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cong.: Amen.

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