

suffering
produces

endurance
produces

rom 5:3-4

hope
produces

character

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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OUR WORSHIP

The Problem with Pain

SERVICE THEME *The problem with pain* has often been expressed with a two-fold question: [1] If God is so loving, why does He allow it? [2] If God is so powerful, why doesn't He stop it? Our Gospel Reading tells us that Lazarus' two sisters sent this message to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick." So, Jesus loves Lazarus, yet, He is deathly ill. And, Jesus' power, as we learn later in John, chapter 11, is power over the final and fiercest foe, namely death. So, the two questions that *the problem with pain* poses are dealt with. What, then, is the point of pain?

+ Preparing Ourselves to Hear God's Word +

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING Psalm 13

Pastor: How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?

People: How long will You hide Your face from me?

Pastor: How long must I grumble to myself

People: and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

Pastor: How long shall my soul's enemies snicker because of my pain?

People: Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

Pastor: give light to my life, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

People: lest my enemies say, "I have prevailed over him,"

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Pastor: But I have trusted in Your steadfast love;

People: therefore, my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD,

People: because He has dealt bountifully with me.

All: Glory be to God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, for we daily

remember and rejoice that we have been Baptized into His name and,

thus, we have been forgiven forever and destined for LIFE now and without end. Amen!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In John, chapter 9, Jesus and His disciples see a man who has been blind from birth. His disciples asked Jesus, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he has been born blind?" In other words, is it this man's fault or are his parents to blame for his blindness. Jesus' disciples, like us, figure the cause of our struggles and our suffering is either because we are being punished for some sin or we are the victim of someone else's culpability.

People: We are sorry for such near-sighted and dangerous thinking.

Pastor: Jesus responds: "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so the works of God might be displayed in him." And the Apostle Paul clearly tells us in our Epistle Reading that we are justified and have peace with God; therefore, we don't feel guilty or get angry because of our sufferings; we actually glory in them.

People: Thanks be to God our Father for His indescribable gift of love, acceptance and forgiveness in Christ Jesus.

ENTRANCE HYMN *LSB 421, vv. 1 & 4* "Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing"

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning Keep me from its first beginning.**

**Every wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me, Granting new Life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion Has procured my soul's salvation.**

+ Hearing God's Word for Us +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Job 42:1-3, 7

¹ Then Job replied to the LORD: ² "I know that You can do all things; no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. ³ You asked, 'Who is this that obscures My plans without knowledge?' Surely, I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

⁷ After the LORD had said these things to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has."

EPISTLE READING Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces endurance; ⁴ endurance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Pastor: These Readings are from God's holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING John 11:1-5

Pastor: The Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John, the beloved disciple, the tenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped His feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick."

⁴ When Jesus heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "No Pain, No Gain"

MESSAGE HYMN LSB 725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

**Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.**

**God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

**Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.,**

MESSAGE "We Glory in Our Sufferings"

Introduction

The *problem of pain*: [1] Does Jesus care? [2] Does Jesus have power?

Two False Assumptions

[1] Guilt: Am I being punished for sin?

[2] Anger: Am I the victim of someone else's wrong-doing?

Two Actual Reasons

[1] Lazarus' sickness is for God's glory.

[2] The man was born blind that the works of God might be displayed.

Conclusion

Does suffering and struggle make you bitter or better, harder or softer?

+ Our Response to God's Word +

OFFERING *tune: LSB 725* "Children of the Heavenly Father" [Sing 2X]

**Thank the Lord for blessings given,
For His grace and sins forgiven.**

Lavish love He sends us daily, Seeks our praise and service freely.

**Gracious Father we are grateful,
For Your bounty to Your people.**

May we cherish all You give us, Treasure most Who died to save us.

PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily
bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For
Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen!**

+ The Lord's Supper – the Visible Word +

PREFACE

Pastor: Paul severely threatens those who deal unworthily with the Eucharist when he says, 1 Corinthians 11:27: Whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. This, it seems to me, means at least 2 things: [1] The body and blood of the Lord refer to Jesus' crucifixion, where His body was given over to the nails of the cross and His blood was shed for my forgiveness. If we come to the Sacrament without recognizing our faults and failures, that is, our continual need for forgiveness, we are unworthy. [2] The body and blood of the Lord must indeed be present in this sacrament for a personal and powerful assurance of forgiveness; if we doubt God's Word in this matter, we are unworthy. [*Augsburg Confession*]

JESUS' WORDS

THE LAMB OF GOD LSB 431, vv. 1-2 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

**Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.**

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COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Father, Jesus was glorified when – out of sacrificial love – He was lifted up on the cross. May Your love – given to us through this Supper – infect an influence our lives. Father, You accomplished Your work of redemption when Jesus took our place – suffering and dying on the cross for us. May Your justification of us free us from our slavery to ourselves and to our sin. We ask in Jesus' gracious, loving, and redeeming name, the Same who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: AMEN!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord is blessing you and keeping you;
The Lord is making His face to shine on you
and He is being gracious to you;
The Lord is smiling the biggest smile when He thinks of you,
and He is giving you peace.

People: Amen!

SENDING SONG *LSB 752* "Be Still, My Soul"

**Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain,
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled then while He dwelt below.**

**Be still, my soul; though dear friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.**

**Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**