

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020
Rizpah Mourns Her Sons



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: When we come to this space, we bring all of ourselves.
All: **We bring joy and hope,**
L: Dreams and prayers,
All: **Grief and doubt,**
L: Memories and heartache.
All: **God meets us here.**
L: God hears our prayers and sees our scars.
All: **With open hearts and authenticity,**
Let us worship good and gracious God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY & CONFESSION

- P: God of creation,
C: **Humanity is capable of such evil.**
Stories in scripture alongside stories on the news
remind us of that truth all the time.
For the moments when we choose violence over peace,
exclusion over inclusion,
and fear over hope — forgive us.
When we choose pride over what is right,
and comfort over justice — show us mercy.
And when we numb our pain instead of leaning into empathy—
unravel us, for we long to be changed.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.

READINGS

PSALM 51:1-12

- L: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
- C. **according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**
- L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- C. **For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**
- L. Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
- C. **so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- L. Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- C. **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- L. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C. **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- L. Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- C. **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- L. Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- C. **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

2 SAMUEL 3:7; 21:1-14

^{3:7} Now Saul had had a concubine named Rizpah daughter of Aiah. And Ish-Bosheth said to Abner, "Why did you sleep with my father's concubine?"

^{21:1} During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD.

The LORD said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death."

² The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not a part of Israel but were survivors of the Amorites; the Israelites had sworn to spare them, but Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them.)

³ David asked the Gibeonites, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make atonement so that you will bless the LORD’s inheritance?”

⁴ The Gibeonites answered him, “We have no right to demand silver or gold from Saul or his family, nor do we have the right to put anyone in Israel to death.”

“What do you want me to do for you?” David asked.

⁵ They answered the king, “As for the man who destroyed us and plotted against us so that we have been decimated and have no place anywhere in Israel, ⁶let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and their bodies exposed before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul—the LORD’s chosen one.” So the king said, “I will give them to you.”

⁷ The king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath before the LORD between David and Jonathan son of Saul.

⁸ But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, whom she had borne to Saul, together with the five sons of Saul’s daughter Merab, whom she had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite.

⁹ He handed them over to the Gibeonites, who killed them and exposed their bodies on a hill before the LORD. All seven of them fell together; they were put to death during the first days of the harvest, just as the barley harvest was beginning.

¹⁰ Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds touch them by day or the wild animals by night.

¹¹ When David was told what Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, Saul’s concubine, had done, ¹²he went and took the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh Gilead. (They had stolen their bodies from the public square at Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them after they struck Saul down on Gilboa.)

¹³ David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from there, and the bones of those who had been killed and exposed were gathered up.

¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the tomb of Saul’s father Kish, at Zela in Benjamin, and did everything the king commanded. After that, God answered prayer in behalf of the land.

MESSAGE Pastor Julie Rogness

MUSIC: *Thy Holy Wings* SKU #25950 vss 1 & 2

**1 Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev’ry moment be lived within thy grace.**

**2 Oh let me nestle near thee, with-in thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort, and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Great Sew-er —
who weaves us together in community,
collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit —
who hems us in before and behind,
catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.**

**And I believe in Jesus Christ —
who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out,
refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.**

**I believe God has woven part of God's self
into the fiber of our being,
making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.**

**I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
that I am prone to error
and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.**

**I believe in the Church,
and that like a quilt of different fabrics,
she is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation.**

**And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
to hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love,
and to invite me into a new journey. Amen.**

PRAYERS

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.

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING OF GIFTS

MUSIC: *Thy Holy Wings* SKU #25950 vs. 3

**3 Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small,
And while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

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BLESSING Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus. ROMANS 8:38-39

God, the creator, ☩ Jesus, the Christ,
And the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
Bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with you
Thanks be to God.

PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR-Julie Rogness ASSISTING-Jenna Rogness
MUSIC-Annette Thunhorst, Kari Boyum, Linda Cordes, Mary Danielson-Gates, Carol Lozon; TECH-Jim Braaten

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER



Sid Strandemo, Faye Marcuson, Ron Grose, Mary Ravlin Gould, Barb Schaller,
Lila Cole, Colette Flom, Stephen Berge, Lyle Canton & Glenn Ronning.

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