

Welcome and Announcements: June 14, 2020

Prelude: *Schumann*

Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto Thee.

Gathering Around God's Word

Opening Psalm and Prayer:

Psalm 41:1-4

¹Happy are those who consider the poor; the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.

²The LORD protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land.

You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

³The LORD sustains them on their sickbed; in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

⁴As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you."

Opening Hymn: *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

1. Where cross the crowded ways of life,
Where sound the cries of race and clan,
Above the noise of selfish strife,
We hear Thy voice, O Son of Man.

2. In haunts of wretchedness and need,
On shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
We catch the vision of Thy tears.

3. O Master, from the mountainside,
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide,
O tread the city's streets again;

4. Till all the world shall learn Thy love,
And follow where Thy feet have trod;
Till glorious from Thy heaven above
Shall come the city of our God.

God's Word Read and Proclaimed

From now through November 22, Kerra will be preaching through the Gospel of Matthew. Now would be a good time to read through this gospel at home for your time of prayer and devotion. For this exploration, it will be helpful to know a little bit about the Roman economic system in which the early church found itself.

Here's a helpful article by New Testament Scholar Warren Carter to set the stage:

<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/passages/related-articles/economic-justice-and-the-roman-empire.aspx>

Matthew 9:9-13, 35-38

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 10:1-15

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² *These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.*

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim

the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

Sermon: Imperial Power is Bad for Your Health

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

1. I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
Thy church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

2. Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heaven

Charge and Blessing:

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name—you are mine!

When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you.

When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown!

When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

Response: *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (v. 2)

All the world is God's own field,

Fruit unto God's praise to yield;

Wheat and tares together sown,

Unto joy or sorrow grown;

First the blade, and then the ear,

Then the full corn shall appear:

Lord of harvest, grant that we

Wholesome grain and pure may be.

Postlude: *Bringing in the Sheaves*

Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping – we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

CCLI #20516410 Size A

Streaming #20516427 Size A