

ACC ORDER OF SERVICE - 5th Sunday after Pentecost July 5th, 2020

Introduction: On a day like today July 5th, 2019 I was in a serious car accident together with 2 family members, the car was extremely ruined but by the grace of God all the three of us came out of that accident very much alive with very minor injuries for two of us in the car. On the very same day 2hours prior to my accident other family members about 16 of them got in a very serious car accident and 14 of them were seriously injured. In both two accidents no life was taken away. I remember walking out of that accident with so much gratitude. What I said was ***“Lord, I am grateful for providing for us this gift of life, all material things and injuries shall pass”***. I have never talked about that day but every morning since then when I get to see a new day i am reminded of God's grace, even when I go astray He still takes care of me and my family, He never leaves us. On this fifth Sunday after Pentecost let us be reminded that God is still with us, all that we need to do is believe in him, ask for forgiveness and He shall take care of us and never get tired of trying our best to act according to his will.

This is a communion service so prepare some amount of bread and wine/grape juice enough for everyone in the service and light up a candle during the service. Scriptures and Hymns are provided below. For the hymns to get the music, vocals and lyrics there is a link to youtube for those who will have access to the internet.

Service Leader: **Jessica Paul** Preacher: **Rebecca Mosley**

GATHERING HYMN: He is Exalted - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCAL9sJLAEA>

He is exalted the King is exalted on High	He is the Lord
I will praise Him	Forever His truth shall reign
He is exalted forever exalted	Heaven and Earth
And I will praise His name	Rejoice in His holy name
	He is exalted the King is exalted on high (...x3)

PRAYER:

Heavenly father, we thank you for the gift of life. We also thank you for providing us with the opportunity to worship you today and learn from your word. Lord, we thank you for walking with us and protecting us and our loved ones. We welcome you in this service as you guide and teach us from the beginning of this service to the end. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS:

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we can not free ourselves from sin's power. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so we may want to do your will. Help us to walk in your ways, that people may see our good works and glorify your name. Amen.**

Leader: God is merciful, and has given his son Jesus Christ to die for us. For his sake God forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives power to become the children of God, and gives them his Holy Spirit.

THE WORD:

Preparation Hymn: Power of your love - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9_0jiO5ZRM

Lord I come to You	In the power of Your love
Let my heart be changed, renewed	Lord unveil my eyes
Flowing from the grace	Let me see You face to face
That I've found in You	The knowledge of Your love
Lord I've come to know	As You live in me
The weaknesses I see in me	Lord renew my mind
Will be stripped away	As Your will unfolds in my life
By the power of Your love	In living every day
Hold me close	By the power of Your love
Let Your love surround me	
Bring me near	Hold me close...x2
Draw me to Your side	And I will soar with You
And as I wait	Your Spirit leads me on
I'll rise up like the eagle	In the power of Your love..x2
And I will soar with You	
Your Spirit leads me on	

First reading: Zechariah 9:9-12 (NIV)

9 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. **10** I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River[a] to the ends of the earth. **11** As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. **12** Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to

Psalm 145:8-14(NIV)

8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.

9 The Lord is good to all;
He has compassion on all he has made.

10 All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
12 so that all people may know of your
mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and your dominion endures through all
generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.[a]

14 The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

Second reading: Romans 7:15-25 (NIV)

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **16** And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. **17** As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22** For in my inner being I delight in God's law; **23** but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature[b] a slave to the law of sin.

Gospel reading: Matthew 11:16 - 19 (NIV)

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."

Matthew: 11: 25-30

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.

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.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **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."

SERMON: On Roman 7:1 Prepared by Rev Rebecca Mosley (*Feel free with you family to discuss or to have a moment of reflection on the questions at the end of the sermon*)

Over the past three months, most of us have had more time than usual, stuck at home with our families, or alone by ourselves. We haven't had the support of community worship, in-person bible studies, prayer time with friends. I do pray that this unique time has brought out the best in some of us. But I'm sure for some of us, our true colors have been revealed, and they aren't pretty.

For me, the real trial has been supervising online school at home, while continuing to work. Are there any parents with me on this? I recognize that this situation has been as difficult and frustrating for my sons as it has been for me. They've been bored and unmotivated, but still mostly did the work. They miss playing with friends their age. I should have sympathy for them. And yet, when I have found them on YouTube for the fourth time in one morning, rather than in science class, some days I have completely lost control. Their disobedience meant that my plans are changed, my priorities compromised. Damaging, hurtful words have spewed from my mouth, harming my kids' hearts and shaping their attitudes towards me in negative ways. These are the people I love most in the world. I want the best for them! I know that the life of Christ should be on display in me, especially as I interact with my family, and yet there are days when I have completely failed. My older son has even asked, "Mommy, is this what it means to act like a Christian?" Ouch!

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do, I do not do, but what I hate, I do!" (Rom 7:15) Have you experienced this Romans 7 truth too? I don't know what your weaknesses might be: too much eating or drinking or social media; too much self-absorption or fear or need to control; unfaithfulness towards or abuse of the ones you love? Sorry to take us down a darker path this week. But when we can own the truth, the truth can set us free.

Some of us might be thinking: "I'm saved! I thought that I was finished with sin! Isn't Paul talking about the experience of a person before she's come to Christ? Does this mean that I'm not really saved?" But there is a lot of evidence pointing to the fact that Paul was speaking on behalf of all of us, even mature believers who have walked with the Lord for a long time.

Nicole Vaughn writes: *"Do you know any Christians who got a new body after they were saved? No? Me either. I still have my old one too. When we become Christians and Jesus comes to live in us, our sin is still in us too."*

Paul's point is that knowing the law – knowing what Jesus would do – is usually not enough. We will never succeed in living a completely Christ-like life in our own strength. Verse 22 says, "in my inner being, I delight in God's law, but I see another law at work waging war against the law of my mind." There has never been anyone holy enough to live without sin every day. Maybe it helps to realize that this kind of struggle is normal, even for long-time Christians. But just because it's normal doesn't

mean it's good! I don't want to keep hurting my children with my words. Do you want to keep doing the things that your conscience condemns you for? Of course not! We decided to follow Jesus because we knew we wanted to follow the way of love and freedom. And yet here we are -- We're stuck! We just can't do it! Who will rescue us from this wretched situation? "THANKS BE TO GOD who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

When we catch ourselves in the grip of sin, there is only One who will save us: the power of God in Jesus Christ, at work in us through the Holy Spirit. We recognize how desperately we need God! It's good to be humbled. This is the moment to repent and to fall on God's grace again, and be lifted up in Jesus' arms and placed back on our feet. Can you feel a sense of gratitude and wonder? Our loving Father still accepts us and wants to set us free from sin and destruction. Can you join me in this prayer? (**found in the audio**) Let my recognition of my sin and my tears of repentance lead me to deeper thankfulness and praise and joy at God's mercy and deliverance.

Questions to consider:

1. When you read Romans 7:15, is there a specific incident that comes to mind from the past week? Ask God to help you think about how this applies in your own life right now.
2. Have you harmed anyone as you have struggled with sin? Do you need to ask forgiveness from anyone, now that you are thinking about how sin has taken hold? You might even need to forgive yourself.
3. Thanks be to God for the deliverance in Christ Jesus! Can you accept this deliverance fully? What would it take to experience God's grace today? How can you rejoice and offer thanks?

Celebration Hymn: In Christ alone - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1QjKqyGh8s>

In Christ alone my hope is found	'Til on that cross as Jesus died
He is my light, my strength, my song	The wrath of God was satisfied
This Cornerstone, this solid ground	For every sin on Him was laid
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm	Here in the death of Christ I live.
What heights of love, what depths of peace	There in the ground His body lay
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease	Light of the world by darkness slain
My Comforter, my All in All	Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Here in the love of Christ I stand	Up from the grave He rose again
	And as He stands in victory
	Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
	For I am His and He is mine
In Christ alone, who took on flesh	Bought with the precious blood of Christ
Fullness of God in helpless babe	
This gift of love and righteousness	
Scorned by the ones He came to save	No guilt in life, no fear in death

This is the power of Christ in me

Can ever pluck me from His hand

From life's first cry to final breath

Till He returns or calls me home

Jesus commands my destiny

Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

No power of hell, no scheme of man

Offertory: *for your offertory you can send after the service or any day during the coming week(s) through ACC Mpesa number +255 755 992 394 registered in the name of Nasieku Mollel(our church administrator) OR deposited directly into our ACC Exim Account 0030023252*

Communal Prayers: *The service leader should lead the family to pray on what the Lord leads them to pray for. The service leader should start and finish the prayers. Anyone who feels to pray loud should end their prayer with "Lord in your Mercy" and everyone else will respond "Hear our prayers"*

COMMUNION:

Leader: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

ALL: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

ALL: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. (Distribution of bread and wine to follow)

Leader: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Affirmation hymn: Thank you Jesus for your love - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3nTKO_L9nA

Thank You Jesus, for Your love to me
Thank You Jesus, for Your grace so free
I'll lift my voice to praise Your Name
Praise You again and again
You are my everything, You are my Lord

Closing Prayer and Benediction:

Heavenly father, we give thanks for this service and for your word that nourishes our souls. Lord as we are closing this service today we pray that you lead us as we go and share your good word with others in our networks. Help us spread the good news about your forgiveness and help us bring light in other people's lives as they get to hear your good words. Father, help us to remain calm and hopeful as we continue seeking you. Teach us to be humble and come forward to you for repentance without shame seeking your forgiveness when we find ourselves acting against your will. Amen.

Sending Hymn: You shall go out with Joy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unWnWSgoSt0>

You shall go out with joy	Will clap, will clap their hands.
And be let forth with peace,	
And the mountains and the hills	And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
Will break forth before you.	And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
There'll be shouts of joy	And the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
And the trees of the fields	While you go out with joy ..x3