

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sent and Sustained in Grace

July 3, 6 & 7, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Life is not always easy. Life in and of faith is often less easy. In our readings today we encounter a few people who faced difficulty and challenges amid their godly callings. Ezekiel would be sent to speak the Word of God to a rebellious people who wouldn't happily receive the message. The apostle Paul would face his own personal struggles with his "thorn . . . in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) as he brought the Gospel to many on his mission journeys. Jesus Himself would not be welcomed as Savior when He returned to His hometown of Nazareth. Though things were far from easy, God would bless the work that He called His people and His own Son to do. Even in our times of difficulty and challenges living as His people, we are reminded of the same truth from the Lord: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

"Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,
"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #901 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted; Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howso'er temptations thicken; May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

PSALM 123

Pastor: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

People: **Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till He has mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

People: **Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Echoing the words of the psalmist, we lift our eyes to you, O Lord, enthroned in the heavens. As we do, we seek your mercy. Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”

People: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Though we lift up our eyes to you, our souls have had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

People: As you claim us as your own in Baptism through water and the Word, we struggle to live as your children. As you call us in faith to trust in you, we face the contempt of others in the world around us. As you collect your people together as your church, we often fail to prioritize the work of your kingdom and the mission you have set before us for the sake of others. We flee for refuge to your infinite mercy seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The Lord calls His people and sends them to proclaim His Word, even amid the scorn and contempt of the world. He sent Ezekiel, along with a promise:

People: “Whether they hear or refuse to hear, . . . they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

Pastor: He sent the apostle Paul, along with a promise:

People: “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”

Pastor: He sent His own Son into the world, into our flesh, on our behalf. Though stricken, smitten, afflicted, and even rejected in His own hometown, the message of the Word made flesh continued to be proclaimed by the disciples:

People: “So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.”

Pastor: Gathered together as His church, be affirmed and assured that almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. All of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. *Amen. Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. *Alleluia. Refrain*

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, though we are unworthy, you show mercy. Though we are underserving, you pour out your grace. Though we fail, you grant us forgiveness.

People: In our callings in faith and sent as your people, sustain us through your Spirit that we together as your church may serve you in joy and gladness;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 2:1–5* (Ezekiel’s call)

And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.”

²And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 12:1–10* (Paul's vision and his thorn)

I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses—⁶though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:1–13* (Jesus rejected at Nazareth)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

⁴And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown

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and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Count Your Blessings”

1, 2, 3

1, 2 and 3, 4 *Repeat 4 times*

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord has done.

Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your blessings,
See what God has done;
Count your blessings,
Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings,
See what God has done.

1, 2, 3

1, 2 and 3, 4 *Repeat 4 times*

SERMON HYMN #965 “God Bless Our Native Land”

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave, Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies; On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

SERMON “Ministry to Rebellious Nations” Ezekiel 2:1-5

(Rise)

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Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

SONG DURING OFFERING “America the Beautiful” W & R #727

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress
a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

We bless you, Lord, for you have heard the voice of our pleas for mercy and sent your Son, Jesus Christ, our strength and shield. Save your people and bless your heritage forever. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, you hate evil and rebellion yet you desire the restoration and salvation of those who sin against you. As you have called us to do, we pray for our nation that is rebelling in many ways. Call people to repentance and faith. Restore the soul of our nation. Heal our land. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the harvest, send laborers into your harvest fields. Preserve your ministers among us devoted to your Word and to prayer. Bless mission work around the world, especially our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family. Prepare many servants to serve your Church, that neither the preaching nor the care of your people may be lacking. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations: Christ Jesus, your holy arm. By His death and resurrection, you have worked salvation. Strengthen the song of your Church. Give skill to musicians, poets and artists. Give boldness to your congregation in this and every place to sing praises to Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, soften the hearts of your people in every home. Turn parents and children toward each other in love and patience. Banish the spirit of stubbornness and rebellion from all. Sanctify us in your truth that we might forgive all failings. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, protect and defend our nation from its enemies. Support our leaders, and preserve them from temptation. Through the work of all civil authorities, enable us all to live a quiet and peaceable life according to your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, in our weakness we are strong for the sake of Christ, whose grace is sufficient for every need. Give comfort to those whose pain is chronic, whose suffering is unknown, who wrestle with difficult thorns in body or mind, or who are tempted to despair. Intercede also on behalf of Cheryl, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Karen, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. In weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities, let us boast in Christ and His cross, by which we and our sufferings are sanctified. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of life and salvation, bless the Goede family as they remember Mary Anne, who would have celebrated her 96th birthday in these days. Comfort them in your love, bless the memories, and fill them with hope in the resurrection and life to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Bountiful God, out of your abundant blessing you satisfy us with Christ, the bread of life. Give repentance and faith to all who commune this day, that finding refuge in your Son's true body and blood, we may taste and see that you are good. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

HYMN #839 "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice and in Your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of Your grace The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In You find peace and heav'nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n By all Your church in earth and heav'n.

HYMN #770 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear--
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged --Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge -- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: As we have been called, gathered, and enlightened through your Spirit as your church, you have sustained and nourished us that we may live as your people in this present life and at your time rejoice in life everlasting. Your grace is sufficient and your forgiveness is assured.

People: Strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #644 “The Church’s One Foundation”

The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

Preacher
Liturgist Saturday & Sunday
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Dalen Heinzen, Gary Knight, Don Horn
Deaconess Carole King

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