

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 4th, 2021

9:15am - Hybrid Worship



Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

2725 Concord Dr., Florissant, MO 63033

www.lc-livingchrist.org

From the prophets, like Ezekiel, to the disciples, to Paul - our scripture lessons are shaped in the context of community. How the community responds to God affects them, their choices, their behaviors. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. If they are not received, they are told to shake the dust from their feet and turn their attention elsewhere. God does not work through control or force - but through vulnerability and invitation. God's grace is sufficient for us and the healing of the world. As we are sent out, we go trusting in Christ who dwells in us and all creation.

Notes about our worship service: Guidance and extra information is printed in *italics* throughout the bulletin. "P" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "L" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "C" and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation.

As we ease back into worship in the sanctuary please note the following: Masking is required. You will drop off your offering and pick up prepackaged communion supplies and bulletins on your way in. You may choose to sit where you like (no capacity limitations). Sharing of communion and peace will remain distanced. We will sing only the last song of the service. Finally, please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE "*Fairest Lord Jesus*" arr. Lenny Seidel

WELCOME

The assembly is invited to stand as worship begins.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: The prophets of old spoke of God's justice,
even when it was unwelcome.

Who will hear their message?

C: We will listen and we will hear!

P: Responding to God's call, Jesus traveled,
preaching and teaching all who would listen.

Who will hear his message?

C: We will listen and we will hear!

P: Christ sent out disciples two by two,
to spread the good news in any place that would welcome them.

Who will hear their message?

C: We will listen and we will hear!

P: God's prophets are among us still,
around the world and in these pews.

Who will hear their message?

C: We will listen and we will hear!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister speaks.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

OPENING MUSIC - He Come to Us as One Unknown, ELW #737

You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.

1. He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.
2. He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart, of night within the heart.
3. He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
4. He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving name,
for ev'ry child of earth, for ev'ry child of earth.
5. He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING - Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 123

L: To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

**C: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show us your mercy.**

L: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

**C: too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

SECOND READING - 2 Corinthians 12:5b-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

But on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from

being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL READING - Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being 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. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house."⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered 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 to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON - Pastor Melissa Woepfel

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - God's Work, Our Hands, ACS #1000

You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.

1. God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.
2. God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.
3. God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.
4. God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/ occasions.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *A brief silence.*

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (*especially*). God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for outreach ministries in our community: Lydia's House, Room at the Inn, Humanitri, Let's Start, and Restorative Justice Center. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you (*especially*). God of mercy, **hold us in love.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

The assembly is invited to stand.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Please share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of **distanced** greeting. If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.*

OFFERING AND PRAYER

We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support. Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue now and into the future.

P: Holy Imagination, you keep us from caving to forces that dull and discourage our hope. You enable dreams and visions and prophecies of what could become. Bless our offerings to building and creating and perceiving your reign among us. In small and extraordinary ways, may we be courageous in our efforts. In Jesus' name we pray,

C: Amen.

COMMUNION LITURGY

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

Vulnerable God, we rejoice to worship, for your grace is sufficient for us, and your power is made perfect in weakness. You created the world as a theater for your companionship, and you raised up a people through whom all nations would find a blessing. And so, with all the company of heaven we proclaiming never-ending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Mysterious God, in great love you came among us and dwell with us still. Embodying vulnerability and weakness, you invite us to your table where there is a place for everyone and an abundance of food to be shared.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy Spirit, descend upon our tables, laps, and this bread and cup we share. Make this a meal that anticipates your reign among us. Hasten the day when the weak and insulted are upheld, where justice flows, and all know the fullness of liberation and life. To you be all glory, praise, and honor, Triune God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Eat and be fed. The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated. Time is given for the sharing of elements among households.

BLESSING

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (see last page)

The assembly is invited to stand for the end of the service.

LITANY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

P: God of love and mercy, you have lavished your creative might upon the earth. We give you thanks for the Kickapoo, Osage, Miami, and Sioux-Those and others who cared for this land before us.

C: May we remember that this earth is yours and we are its caretakers. Guide us that we may use what you have given us with care and thanksgiving.

P: God of love and mercy, you long for the liberation and freedom of all. Lift up all whom hatred has cast down; embolden those who need courage to speak and act against oppression; sustain those who work for justice across the globe.

C: May we remember what your justice looks like: the hungry are fed, swords turn into plowshares, the downtrodden are lifted up.

P: God of love and mercy, you have blessed this land, making it a great and wonderful place to live and work and play. Instill in us humility as we receive these gifts of grace.

C: May we remember the dignity of all people, regardless of tongue, creed, or nationality.

P: O God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your own image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of our people around the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN - We All Are One in Mission ELW #576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace; you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "*America the Beautiful*" arr. Eugene Butler

Announcements for the week of 7/4/21

1. Before and after worship today, the parish nurse (Bill Kaepfel) will do blood pressures. Equipment will be sanitized between customers.
 2. In observance of Independence Day, the office will be closed Monday, 7/5.
 3. Worship Volunteers Needed - if you'd like to help with worship in any way (lector, usher, greeter, running Zoom and PowerPoint, etc.), please let Cynthia in the church office know. A rotating schedule is being developed.
 4. Tuesday Bible Study resumes 7/13 at 9am and 7pm via Zoom.
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Worship Leadership

July 4, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Carr
Lector: Sharon Perko Davis
Zoom and Slides: Bryan Miles
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Dave Endorf & Randy Henning
Greeter: Laurie Brown

July 11, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Randy Henning
Lector: Terry Calderwood
Zoom and Slides: Marilyn Wiley
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Jim and Doris Stoechner
Greeter: Dave Endorf

July 18, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Kathy Carr
Zoom and Slides: Rod Wallace
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Glen Albers and Bill Billeau
Greeter: Marilyn Wiley

July 25, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Carr
Lector: Jeanne Calderwood
Zoom and Slides: Laurie/Gary Brown
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Cathie Lehr and Marilyn Wiley
Greeter: Mark Beins