



Service of the Word
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 4, 2021



SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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P-Presiding Minister A-Assisting Minister C-Congregation

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:

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.

GATHERING SONG

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

Refrain

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of
sleep;*

and over the eons you called to each thing:

"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

Refrain

*You swept through the desert, you stung with the
sand,*

*and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,*

then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. **Refrain**

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world
was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the
wind.* **Refrain**

*You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream
dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.* **Refrain**

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.**

KYRIE

ELW Setting 10, Page 203

*Have mercy on us, Lord,
and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word;
it saves us from despair.*

*Have mercy on us, Christ,
and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole*

that new life may begin.

*Have mercy on us, Lord;
make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r;
create in us new hearts!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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. Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

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.

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And 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.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 123

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2)

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²As 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.

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

**⁴too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

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.

²I know a person 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 such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, 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.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark 6:1-13

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹[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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carl Ballard

HYMN OF THE DAY

**We All Are One in Mission
ELW 576**

*We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.*

*We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are diff'rent;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.*

*Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

THE PRAYERS

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

(A brief silence)

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of protection, you continue to watch over those serving in our armed forces and assure them of your never-failing strength. We pray especially for *Beth & Ryan, Jonathan, Noah, Irene, and Alex*. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. We pray especially for those we lift before you now. (*a brief moment for those names to be shared in prayer*) Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(*Ahren, Barb & family, Bev, Charles, Cindy, Deb, Gary, Harrison & Sara, Jon, Judy's family, Kris, Lawton, Lizzy, Lynne & Jim, Marge, Mary, Bev & family, Adam & Shani & Ezra, Steve & family, Stacy & Char*)

A: God of love, fill this congregation with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve. As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with the leaders and

the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in Freeland.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

BLESSING

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 To Be Your Presence ELW 546

*To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near,
alleluia!*

*To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,
alleluia!*

*To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,
alleluia!*

*We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,
alleluia!*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Pastor Carl's office hours are by appointment.