

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
July 3, 2022

Introduction to the Day

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of
one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

#857

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Reading: Galatians 6:1-16

[¹My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.

⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision

is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” ¹⁸He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Our Gospel text from last week left us feeling a touch unsettled as Jesus painted a picture of what it will look like to follow him. The images he used perhaps shook us, and the idea is that the understanding of Biblical calling is an all-in type of following.

Today, our Gospel text continues some of those themes, but Jesus' approach shifts from the riddles of last week, to more a pep talk this week. Jesus does tell them flat out that the calling to which they are called is a scary one, but he does it in a way that says to them, “I've called you to this because I know you can do it.”

In sending out the 70, 2x2, to go and spread the Good News of Gods Love, Jesus tells them to not take anything extra. Don't burden yourself with what you think you might need. You carry everything that you will need in the Good News that is God's Love for God's People. Nothing more. Nothing less.

And, in this journey you are going to find those who welcome you. And, when they welcome you, they are going to feed you. Enjoy it. In those moments, don't worry yourself with what more you need to accomplish elsewhere. Rather, stay in that moment of hospitality and enjoy it. When the time comes to move on, you'll know. In the same way, when you aren't welcomed in a place, don't worry yourself with what you haven't accomplished. Rather, make it known that the kingdom of God has come near, but was not wanted. Stand in the street and shake the dust from your feet in protest.

While Jesus calls them to take no baggage with them, he also calls them to not accumulate baggage along the way.

We've had these moments in our lives, in this calling to be Jesus followers, where we've gathered dust. We aren't the greatest at shaking that dust from our feet, in fact, we're the opposite. We are good at letting things fester. We are good at letting the dust of difficult situations eat at us, all while moving on from the good moments in search for the next.

The thing that Jesus sends the 70 out with when he tells them that they are enough and they have what they need is love. It is the love that they have heard him preach, listened to him teach, and seen him live out in their ministry together.

William Kent Krueger in his book, "Thunder Bay" writes:

The biggest word in the human vocabulary has only four letters and no definition that's ever been adequate. We love our dogs. We love our children. We love God and chocolate cake. We fall in love and we fall out of love. We die for love and we kill for love. We can't spend it. We can't eat it when we're starving or drink it when we're dying of thirst. It's no good against the bitter cold of winter, and even a cheap electric fan will do more for you on a hot summer day. But ask most human beings what they value above all else in this life, and five'll get you ten, it's love.

We know this. We know that to follow God is to love as Jesus loved. Unconditionally. We know that we are called to love the unlovable, the unpopular, and the ones that will make others turn their heads.

And, sometimes that is us.

Jesus, in telling his followers to shake the dust of a difficult situation off of their feet is telling them to take care of themselves. That is self-love. And it is important.

While this Gospel text is similar to last week in that it is a reminder of the all-in calling to which we are called, it is different in that Jesus offers his followers then, and us now, words of assurance that we aren't in this calling alone. Rather, he tells us as that as much as we are going to want to take those difficult moments personally, it isn't about us.

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

As much as we want those moments to linger, and can't set them aside, and refuse to not make them about us, it's actually God they've got a problem with. And, that's nothing God can't handle.

People of God, we have been called to this time and this place with this same purpose. This same calling that Jesus sent out the 70 with some 2000 years ago is a calling that we are sent out with now.

We have been given the same tools that they were given then. We have heard the same stories that they lived of Christ showing them what it means to love. We face the same urge to let the difficult moments stick to us, and hear the same call to shake that dust from our feet.

We share the same promise that Jesus reminds them of, to not boast in the joy of the moments when these are good, but rather, in our Baptism, rejoice that our names are written in heaven.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Song of the Day

"This Little Light of Mine"

#677

The 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

Lord of the harvest, you send your church into the world to proclaim Christ's new creation to all. Renew the church as it carries out your mission of peace and healing. We pray for missionaries who accompany your people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your creation abounds with flowing waters and diverse creatures. Guide the work of climate scientists as they develop and advocate ways to restore earth's natural balance. Motivate humankind to adopt lifestyles that protect and sustain the earth. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You desire abundant life for all. As we celebrate Independence Day, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward freedom for all people (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Mothering God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, and comfort all who are dying or grieving (*especially for Gena, Peyton, Matt, Bob and Joanne, Jim and Sandy, Bob, Joe, Bill and Bonnie, David, Cassie, Keith and JoJo, Sherm and Mary, Frank and Heather, Verna, Bob and Sonja, Irene, Kathy, Val, Jacob, JoAnn Fuerbringer's family*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We remember the saints who proclaimed your reign on earth and now rest in you (*especially Thomas the Apostle, whom we remember today*). Make us faithful in our witness to Christ's new creation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

Amen.

Offering

Please see the graphic on the last page of the worship packet for a snapshot of our current finances. We have good months in both May and June that have cut our gap roughly in half. July is going to be a larger month for expenses and we ask that you prayerfully consider a Bridge the Gap gift to your church today!

Offertory Prayer

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Words of Institution

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

Communion

Prayer

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

“We Are Called”

#720 vs. 1,3

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Financial Snapshot

January - June

Total Revenue **\$149,629**

Total Expenses **\$158,038**

How is the gap looking?

\$16,277 THROUGH APRIL

\$8,443 THROUGH MAY

\$8,409 THROUGH JUNE

What to expect in July

2022 avg monthly expenses: **\$26,340**

Last 4 July Expenses: **25,400**

Extras in July:

Quarterly Insurance = **\$2,500**

Extra Pay Period = **\$7,000**

Average giving/month in '22= **\$24,938**

Last 4 July Giving = **\$20,554**

Announcements

Our prayers and sympathies are with JoAnn Fuerbringer in the passing of her father. His services will be July 9 at Upper Pigeon Creek Lutheran Church.

If you haven't heard - our building maintenance extraordinaire guy, Mike Waler, is retiring. He not only kept the building running properly (AC/Boilers, mowed the lawn, scraped/shoveled snow, built shelves, put new lights in, cleaned the bathrooms, etc.) He kept us going. And even when we came up with GREAT ideas of what do for trunk or treat, he was always game to help us build whatever we needed, and dress however we asked him to. But now he will have more time for family, those fishing trips, maybe some hunting, and probably some "honey-do" lists! We will miss his expertise, handy skills and the fun we have had. Happy retirement, Mike!

Ruby's Pantry

We will have Ruby's Pantry here next Thursday (July 7) with the truck coming at approximately 2 p.m. (Sometimes it comes earlier!). We have distribution until 5:30 so if you can come and lend a hand, it would be greatly appreciated. Or you can come and purchase a share for \$25.

Stand in the Light Memory Choir

Join the Choir on Thursdays, July 7-28, 9:45-11 a.m. for Summer Sing! They will be meeting in the pavilion, bring your water, chair and come and sing some great music! The Fall session begins Aug. 18.