

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Introduction to the Day

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world.

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

**And also with you**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**    **“Morning Has Broken”**

**#556**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Reading: Joshua 1:1-9**

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant, saying, <sup>2</sup>“My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. <sup>4</sup>From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. <sup>5</sup>No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous, for you shall lead this people to possess the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. <sup>7</sup>Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. <sup>9</sup>I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 9-13 and 18-26**

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

<sup>18</sup>While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup>And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup>Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup>When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup>he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup>But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup>And the report of this spread throughout that district.

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.

Week three of our Listening to God: Discerning God's Call in Scripture, the third phase of our Strategic Plan Process. Coming off of hearing the call narratives of Abram, whom God spoke to and Abram responded eagerly, followed by Moses, whom God spoke to via the unconsumable burning bush, and Moses responded with some hesitancy, we now come to Joshua.

Joshua in a sense is the continuation of the promise/call that God had give Abram and Moses. God promised a great nation and many descendants to Abram. God promised God's presence in the journey that God was sending Moses and God's people on. And now, Moses has died.

All of the promise that God had given Moses, about continuing on Abram's mission to get to the land that had been promised them, led to 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and Moses never actually gets them there. Yes, he gets them out of Egypt and out from under the oppressive rule of Pharaoh, and that is good, very good, but Moses never actually gets them to the Promised Land.

And then he dies.

So, God speaks to Joshua - Moses' assistant, whom we assume has also been at least part of this 40 years wandering journey with him.

God tells Joshua it is his turn to take the lead on this journey.

And, that it is him that will lead these people to the land that was promised to his ancestor Abraham.

Now, this selected text, Joshua 1:1-9, differs slightly from the previous call narratives that we have heard. As we think of the three questions that we ask ourselves:

- 1- How does God speak to those in this story?
- 2- How do those in the story respond to God's call?
- 3- What does this say to us as a community of faith?

We realize that that there is one that isn't touched on. At all. Number 2.

While this call narrative carries with it some of the major themes of the previous call narratives, in Joshua 1:1-9 we never hear how Joshua responds. That doesn't come until verse 10 and the verses that follow.

But, we do hear WHY God is calling Joshua to take on the mantle of this task. 3 times we hear God say to Joshua, "Be strong and courageous." These are not just hollow words from God during God's little pep talk to Joshua. God tells Joshua WHY he is to be strong and courageous.

First, verse 6. "Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them."

Sensing that they were calling Joshua to a seemingly insurmountable task, God offers assurance. God lets Joshua know that the place that he is leading them to is one that they will be excited about. They've heard about it for generations, getting there will mean the end of the 40 years wandering experience that they have endured. So, go and lead them with strength and courage.

Second, verse 7. "Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go."

God tells Joshua that Moses took care of the difficult part. Getting the folks to follow new sets of laws and ways of being was no small task, and Moses did that part. All Joshua needs to do is follow those tasks and stick to that which he has been called and all will be well. And, do so with strength and courage.

Finally, verse 9. Happens to be my confirmation verse. God gives Joshua the same themed assurance that God gave to Abram and to Moses. To keep, and remember, that God is at the center of all of it. For Abram it was to build an altar. For Moses it was to remove the sandals from his feet for the ground he was on was Holy Ground.

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you Go."

As God does with Abram and Moses, God also does with Joshua. God gives them the assurance that God is present with them every step of the way. God goes with them through every peak and valley and every turn along the way. Always present. Always guiding. Never not a constant presence. God is there.

Therefore, we are to go and do what God has called us to do with strength and courage, because makes that same promise to us.

There are times in our own lives, as we look at our own stories, and the places that we set out for, when we feel alone. When we wonder why and how we are going to get wherever it is that we are going. And it is in those moments that we hear God's call to Joshua.

"Be strong and courageous. You are headed towards a future that I have promised you!"

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

**Apostle's Creed**

**Hymn of the Day "Blessed Assurance"**

**#638**

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders compassion for people who have too often felt forgotten or neglected, and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in secret, and those grieving a loved one's death. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Lois, Irene, Connie, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Bill and Bonnie, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Sandy*). God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the eradication of racial hatred. On this week when we commemorate the Emanuel Nine, we implore you to cast out the demons of white supremacy that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbors. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks, O God, for Barnabas and all the saints (*especially*). Renew our faith that you can do what you have promised and raise us, with all our beloved dead, to new life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Offering

### Offertory Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,  
you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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

### Communion Hymns

#471 & #466

## Prayer

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

#836 vs. 1,3

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**

And all of Good Shepherd said...

**AMEN!**

# June Financial Snapshot

## Your generosity in action:

The first Thursday of June saw Ruby's Pantry distribute 228 shares of food. Shares are \$25 but there is much more that worth of groceries in a share. With temperatures hitting 90 degrees, the Ruby's Volunteers were grateful to be able to be in the air conditioned building!

**THANK YOU!!**

## Through June 7

Total Revenue **\$7,942**

3 more Sunday Offering to Come

Total Expenses **\$7,313**

Projected Expenses: \$26,000

Difference to date:  
**\$629**

**Please join us Sunday, June 25 to celebrate Bill and Betty Davey's 75th wedding anniversary.**

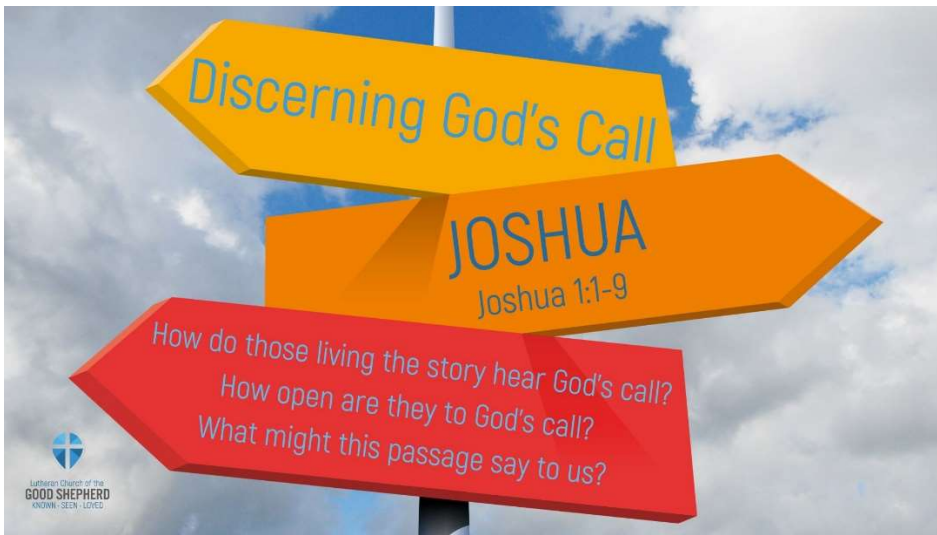
We will be in the upper fellowship hall at Good Shepherd from 2-4.

Please no gifts, cards will be accepted and appreciated.

Snacks and drinks will be available.

Hope to see you on June 25!

Bill and Betty's family



**Questions to ponder with today's Call Narrative for Joshua. We encourage you to respond as you are able:**

**How do the people in the story hear God's call to them?**

**How open are they to God's call?**

**What might this passage say to our community of faith?**