

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 9th, 2023

Introduction to the Day

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary."
Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

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 "Oh, Sing to God Above"

#555

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said,

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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.

In our reading for today we get a first hand account of Isaiah’s call story. This isn’t a story told through other persons of things they heard. This is Isaiah saying, “this is how it all went down.”

Quick background from our devotional resource for this process says,

“The book of Isaiah spans the time from the end of the nation of Judah, into their exile in Babylon, ending with the return to the Promised Land. In Isaiah we hear words interpreting current events in light of God’s work in the world. We experience despair and hope, judgment and mercy, history and prophecy. Isaiah speaks of a Suffering Servant who would save God’s people. We know that Servant to be Jesus.

In Isaiah chapter 6, Isaiah received God’s call to serve.”

Isaiah sees the Lord with six winged Seraphs hovering over him: two wings to cover the face, two for the feet, and two to fly.

At this point I would turn the other direction. And then they start talking to each other.

“Holy holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

This scene causes the foundation of the home to shake and the house is filled with smoke.

If you’d stuck around through the appearance of the Seraphs, I’d imagine this might be the last straw for you.

But Isaiah remains.

And he repents. “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

How often do we experience this? Where people who are called to positions of great power tell you every reason why it shouldn't be them. Have we ever heard it?

So often the warning is, “look out for the folks who say they want that _____ position, and you can fill in the blank.

But Isaiah, seeing God's presence, tells God every reason why it shouldn't be this way.

And the Seraph, taking a hot coal and placing it on his lips, declares him free of guilt and his sin blotted out.

Now, people of faith, we too are given this promise, daily, in the promise found in the waters of baptism.

Each and every day we are made new in Christ through the promise of the Holy Spirit found in baptism and repentance and forgiveness.

So.

Would our story sound similar to that of Isaiah? If you think of whatever vocation it is that you have been called to in life, would your telling of that call be similar to Isaiah, or strikingly different?

I once heard, and I don't remember where or if an article or in depth study was quoted in me hearing this, but I did hear once that, the average person is “called” seven times before saying yes to that which they are called.

That means that on average, a person will say no 6 times before saying yes to that which God has called them.

We might say “no” for a myriad of reasons, but the continued affirmation of that which God has called us to do and be in the world eventually leads to us saying, “yes, this is what I am supposed to do.”

Now, this statistic was in relation to a call to ministry, but I would imagine it applies to just about any vocation one can think of. And you may very well have your own story.

But what if we thought for a moment about what this means for us a people of faith as a part of a larger community of faith?

What might God be calling us to do that we have continually said “no” to for what I'm sure are perfectly good excuses? And, what will God continue to call us into as people of faith until we realize that it is worthy and holy cause and purpose?

The story of Isaiah tells us it may not be a comfortable process. It may take a Seraph taking a burning coal and placing it on our lips for us to find the yes.

But, to what is God waiting for us to say, “Here I am; send me!”

People of God, let's figure that out, and then hang on for the ride.

Thanks be to God.

AMEN

Song of the Day

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

#798 vs. 1,2,4,5

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word (*especially name/s*) as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, 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, and family of Lois Stolts*) and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Hymns #471 and #483

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

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

#543 vs. 1,3

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!

And all of Good Shepherd said...

AMEN!

Services are set for Lois Stolts, who passed away July 4, for Tuesday, July 11 at 1 p.m. at the church. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to the service with a luncheon to follow afterwards.

2023 Financial Snapshot

	Month of June	Year-to-Date	One year ago...
Total Revenue	\$27,557	\$161,101	When we talk about the \$16,000 gap that we faced last summer, that didn't include the \$25,000 Line of Credit that was tapped out, or the balance that remained on the Boiler Loan. We have now paid off the Boiler Loan and are well on our way to eliminating the LoC Debt. THAT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY! THANK YOU!!
Total Expenses	\$25,439	\$150,118	
Difference	\$2,118	\$10,983	

What your generosity makes possible

We are heading into the summer months ready to clear some of our smaller debts through our Going Strong Summer Giving Appeal. With your generosity we will be able to erase our Line of Credit Debt as well as our Boiler Loan Debt and set ourselves on a firm financial foundation heading into the fall!



Lutheran Church of the
GOOD SHEPHERD
KNOWN · SEEN · LOVED

Strong Again Summer Appeal

\$20,000 Giving Campaign
THE BOILER LOAN IS PAID OFF
YOUTH ROOM COVERED
UP NEXT: Line of Credit

GIFTS RECEIVED
\$2,000 Lead Gift
\$6,625 towards \$10,000 Match
\$18,625 total received



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to any
participating
church by
August 1st**



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