

Third Sunday After Pentecost – June 9th, 2024

Introduction to the Day

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are Jesus' family. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

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.

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

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.

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.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

#665

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

¹³Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel – Mark 3:20-35

[Jesus went home;] ²⁰and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and the disciples] could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸“Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

We are early on in Jesus' ministry in Mark's Gospel. We are at the end of the 3rd Chapter and Jesus has just called the 12 to be His followers. We are just getting started in Jesus' ministry. He has been baptized and tempted, he has preached, taught, and healed, he's faced head-on challenges from his detractors, he has started to challenge the way things ought to be, he's realized he can't do it all on his own so he's built his team to help him in his ministry, and that is all what brings us to our text for today.

The crowds have pressed in on them to the degree that it is difficult for he and his disciples to eat. His family, we assume blood family, is out doing damage control. People are starting to slander his name and his ministry.

“He has gone out of his mind.”

“He has Beelzebul.”

They blaspheme the work of the Spirit in all of this. (Which is the real sticking point for Jesus.

But, when we get beyond all of that. The lies and the slander and the slinging of arrows and the statements of all that is wrong with Jesus and what he is up to. We find what matters in this. We find the Gospel hope in this. We find the message we need to hear in this.

Jesus has come to this place, again, having just chosen the 12 that are going to be his closest confidants. They are in a crowded room, but his family is out thinking they need to do damage control. But their damage control is not to silence the crowds slandering his name. Their damage control is not to affirm what it is that he is up to. Their damage control is to go out and restrain him.

When they finally get to him through the crowds, well, get word to him, we hear the Gospel hope-filled message of this text. Though, we may not realize it.

Jesus asks the messengers whom his family has sent, “Who are my mother and my brothers and my sisters? Looking at those around him, those whom he trusts and confides in, who are with him in his ministry and this way of life, he says, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”

This might seem like nothing. And, truthfully, I was stumped on this whole text for quite some time. I, too, missed it. And, admittedly, I maybe didn't miss it as much as I wanted to avoid it and take the comfortable

road. And I looked at that last paragraph again, and the heading found in my Study Bible. “The True Kindred of Jesus.”

It was reading that that I reflected on where it is that we find ourselves in our social calendar. Children have just gotten out of school. Summer routines are just getting started. Plans that have been made for care of our children are finally being realized. And, June is PRIDE month. Pride month is one month out of the year set aside to acknowledge our LGBTQIA+ siblings among us. And they are among us.

Unfortunately, for many in the LGBTQIA+ community, the experience is like that of Jesus in this Gospel text. When the arrows are slung about what it is that he is up to, his family (and again, we aren’t entirely sure who this refers to as we later see that he is still seemingly close with his mother) doesn’t stand up and affirm the work that he is doing, rather, they try to restrain him.

So often, that is the experience of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Rather than affirm the beautiful people that God has created them to be we seek a fix. And church is complicit in this as well. PRIDE month is a hopeful opportunity our siblings in the LGBTQIA+ community to find that gathering of people to call family. Thankfully, for some, that is their blood family. There is that gracious embrace that is ever so needed. But, unfortunately, that is not the experience for everyone.

So, people of God, as church, we must ask ourselves. Who are we in this story?

Are we the original family mentioned that seeks to restrain rather than affirm the beautiful creation that God has placed in our midst. Or, are do we desire to be those gathered in the room, that when the very life that those among us are living is called into question, they can say, “this is my family.”

The last line of this Gospel text, verse 35, Jesus says, “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

It is our call as people of faith to build up the Body of Christ. It is our urgent need to ask ourselves, as people of faith, if the actions that we commit and the statements that we make seek to build up that body, or tear it down. As a viral post on Facebook states, “I’d rather be excluded for who I include than be included for who I exclude,” and another “People should never be the collateral damage of your theology.”

In a time of fearful dangerous divisiveness, I pray that we hear the Gospel hope and Gospel call to be a part of God’s expansive welcome and are urged to be a part of God’s amazing embrace. Thanks be to God. AMEN

Hymn of the Day “Bind Us Together”

#748 WOV

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

You reawaken our hearts to your mercy. We give you thanks for renewers of the church in every age (*especially Columba, Aiden, and Bede whom we commemorate today*). Enliven the creativity and persistence of all seeking to transform the church into a closer vision of your beloved community. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your presence is revealed in the shade of trees, the growth of seeds into flowers, and in the blessing of plants granting food in their right season. Heal lands scarred by deforestation, pollution, or infestation. Teach us to cultivate the earth with respect and reverence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Our nations and communities are divided, O God. Teach us again to listen with curiosity and mercy, even in disagreement. Grant us the humility to acknowledge our hardness of heart and make us bold in modeling cooperation for the sake of the common good. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Hear the prayers of all who cry out to you from the depths of fear, despair, or hopelessness (*We pray especially for Matt, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Cherri, Peggy, John, Judy, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Dan and Sharon, Roger and*

MaryLee), With haste, rescue victims of trafficking, exploitation, and abuse, and bless organizations and individuals who work on their behalf. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant wisdom and clarity to all who are in seasons of discernment and transition: high school graduates preparing for first jobs or new educational journeys, those who are shifting careers, and those who are navigating changes in their relationships. Accompany them with your peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Praise to you for our ancestors in faith who believed, spoke, and lived in you (*especially*). Give us confidence that as Jesus was raised, so we too will be raised, with all the saints, into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

Amen

Sacrament of Holy Communion

#471 & #483

Lord's Prayer

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Amen.

Blessing

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

#543 vs. 1,3

Sending

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!

Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.

And all of Good Shepherd said,

“AMEN”

2024 Financial Snapshot

	Month of May	Year-to-Date
Total Revenue	\$20,351	\$136,919
Total Expenses	\$32,711	\$131,718
Difference	-\$12,360	\$5,201

Available in the Checkbook: \$17,679

**SAVER'S
FUNDRAISER
JUNE 20
DROP ITEMS OFF
MARKED "SAVERS"**

Thank you for your support as we split the funds with
Capital Campaign and CV St. Ministry.

Lutheran Church of the
GOOD SHEPHERD
KNOWN - SEEN - LOVED

**NO CHILD
IN SCHOOL
WITHOUT
NEW
SNEAKERS**



Help us fill
Shepherd's
Closet with
sneakers for
their Aug. 7
Give-Away.

Shepherd's Closet



Children's sizes 10-13
Girls/Women and Boys/Men size 1-8





Worship with Good Shepherd this summer!

9 am at Good Shepherd

10 am at Phoenix Park

PitP Rain Location - Brewing Projekt

Dinner Time @ Family Promise



Family Promise is looking for volunteers to serve their families in July. If you would like to know more about this opportunity, call 715-834-4357 or email info@familypromisecv.org.



Needed:

Shepherd's Closet is in need of children's summer shorts and t-shirts/tops for both boys and girls. Sizes 2T-14/16. Help them restock their shelves.

Thank you!

