

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost – July 7th, 2024

Introduction to the Day

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.

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

“All Are Welcome”

#641 vs. 1,2,3

Prayer of the Day

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.

Reading – Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹ [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. ² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He 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. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel – Mark 6:1-13

¹ [Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² On 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! ³ Is 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. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If 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." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of Our 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

Do you have what it takes?

This is a question we all at some point in our lives will ask ourselves.

Do I have what it takes to go to school?

Do I have what it takes to go to my first sleepover?

Do I have what it takes to make the jump to Middle School? High School? College on my own?

Do I have what it takes to dip my toes into the real world? Tell that person that I like them? Perhaps tell them that I don't?

Do I have what it takes to start a family? Or, perhaps not?

Do I have what it takes to go back to school?

Do I have what it takes to make that move? Across country?

Do I have what it takes to care for my children?

Do I have what it takes to care for my parents?

Do I have what it takes to make the sometimes difficult decisions that will need to be made in those caring situations?

Do I have what it takes to retire?

Do I have what it takes to make it through this thing called life?

The difficulty with this question is that we often have folks, or simply the world around us, telling us that we don't.

Jesus can relate. A prophet returning to his hometown, who was in the presence of those who *should* know all that is Him, is met with questions of legitimacy.

“Where did his powers come from? Is he not the carpenter?”

Jesus doesn't let that stop him. In fact, it fuels him. He uses it to tell Himself, His disciples, and us, what it is that we need to hear.

However, the words he uses are far from comforting. Going out into the villages teaching, he calls the twelve and sends them out into the world of ministry. He instructs them...

“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. On this journey you will find places that welcome you. Stay there. Stay there until it is time to move on, and you will know when that time arrives. And, for those that don't welcome you, brush that dirt off of your sandals and move on. Know this. You are enough. All that you have. All that you are. Who God made you to be. Is enough.”

That is the message for us here today. As we sit here and ponder that litany of questions that we will throughout life, Jesus gives us a simple reminder. You are enough. Don't worry about what it is that you think you need to have to do the things that God has called you to do, instead, leave all of that stuff behind and go and do it! You are enough!

This is a reassuring statement for us, though terrifying, to hear as a church. As church that continually struggles with the ever-changing landscape of church itself in an ever-changing landscape of our nation, we are continually facing that question: Do we have what it takes.

People of God, Jesus willingly called what some might consider a band of misfits to be his trusted 12. Tax Collectors and Fishermen. Jesus himself was questioned by the very community that raised Him, and he time and time again comes back with this message. You are enough.

There are going to be moments where the NO seems louder and louder and stronger and stronger, but the unwavering love of God in Jesus Christ continues to go with us. The unwavering love of God in Jesus Christ continues to give us that nudge into the NO that confronts us and says, “Just go. You are enough. And, you know what, if it doesn't work. Move on. Go to the next place. You will find that welcome. You will find that yes. You are enough.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Hymn of the Day

“All Are Welcome”

#641 vs. 4

Apostle's Creed

Prayers

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, your embrace brings wholeness to those who are troubled. Anoint (*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*) all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed (*especially*). Inspire us by their lives of faith until, with them, we rest forever at our journey's end. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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.

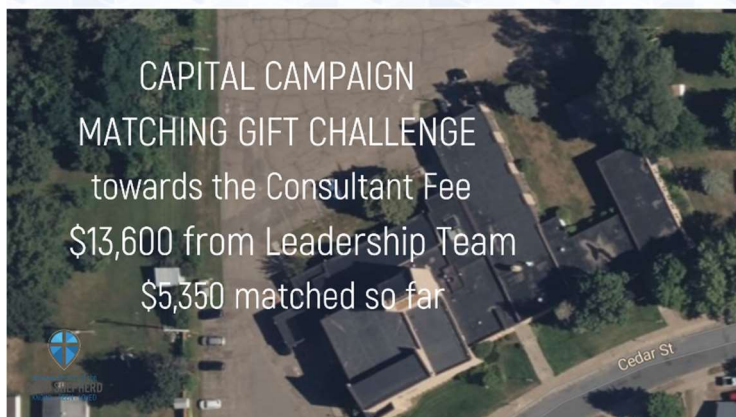
Sending Hymn

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

#888

Sending

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.
And all of Good Shepherd said,
“AMEN”





Rev. Martin R. Halom was elected Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA at the June 7-8 Synod Assembly. He will take office Aug. 1 with installation Sept. 15 at Hope Lutheran Church in Eau Claire at 3 p.m. If you would like to attend, please respond on the Synod website calendar of events: nswi.org.



It is with much gratitude that we announce that DeAnne Swenson will be retiring at the end of August after 14 years as the Director of Office Administration.

When she began 14 years ago there was still a typewriter and a copy machine that was even foreign to her! She is grateful to have worked with 9 pastors, a few youth workers, and numerous volunteers. DeAnne was an integral part of the many Outreach efforts at Good Shepherd and thrived in her monthly work with our Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution.

She won't be a stranger as she hopes to continue to be involved with the many things she loved her, but she is looking forward to spending time with her grandkids, helping her daughter prepare for her wedding, and doing the many other things that she loves.

DeAnne, thank you for your service to God and this congregation. We are ever grateful for the years that you have been here and the work that we have done together as church with you at the helm keeping it all together.