

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

July 4th, 2021

8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Services
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction for 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Jim Holmberg

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Today we consider the message of God sending us and all the faithful prophets, ancient and modern. Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in our thinking, in our speaking, and in our doing. We have put aside your Word and ignored those who proclaim it. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins that we may be empowered to become messengers of your grace in all that we undertake.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Through the Holy Spirit given to us, God's love has been poured into your hearts. For the sake of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#888 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies [Stanzas 1 & 3]

1. *O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain: America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.*
3. *O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears: America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control thy liberty in law.*

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929. Music Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903. Tune: Materna CMD.

Opening Litany for “A Prophet Among Them” Sunday

O Jesus, our Prophet, Priest, and King, you have the words of eternal life.

May we believe your words at all times.

O Jesus, our Prophet, Priest, and King, you show us the way to salvation.

May we follow you always.

O Jesus, our Prophet, Priest, and King, you have made us a part of your holy family through faith.

May we always remember that we will be your brothers and sisters by grace forevermore.

Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

Word

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

A reading from Ezekiel, Chapter 2.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 123

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 123.

To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt,

too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

A reading from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 12.

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

#512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow, and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let me heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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Gospel

Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

Glory to You O Lord.

[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 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! 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.

Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

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

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Jim Holmberg

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#576 We All Are One in Mission [Stanzas 1-2]

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)

1. *We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.*
2. *We all are called for service, to witness in God's name. Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace, so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.*

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(Please stand as you are able)

Profession of Faith

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world
and the church, and all people in need.

... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and
thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Litany for the Fourth of July Weekend

God of all nations, on this national holiday weekend,

we praise you for creating this world and this land in which we live.

God of all nations, we remember all your bountiful and generous gifts,

we praise you for providing all that we need to support this body and life.

God of all nations, on this national holiday weekend,

we ask for your gracious guidance for our nation and our world.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

Prayer for My Country by Penny Rodriguez

Senior Choir Double Quartet: Kait McCullough, Karen

Haglund, Sue Clingman, Sue Farrell, Andy Cherney,

John Schilling, Al Van Lith, Steve Winters

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(Please stand as you are able)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. You have come to your people and sent a Prophet, your Son, into our midst.

Accept our thanks, O God. Receive our gifts. And lead us in lives of service. You are the Lord forevermore. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

8:30 Service Only

First Communion – Hudson William Asmus

Today this community of faith rejoices because Sunday is the day Christ arose from the dead. Once again Jesus calls us to join him for a meal. We celebrate with those who today, join in sharing of the Lord's Meal—Holy Communion.

We welcome you to the Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank God for their lives. We pray that they will find joy and strength in this meal. Come among us, O God, as we gather to worship you.

8:30 & 10:15 Services continue here

Invitation to Communion

The people of Nazareth rejected you, O Christ, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary?" Let us not be blinded by the humble trappings of this meal. For in it we find you, O Christ, in our midst.

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

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Hymn

#481 Come to the Table

Please meditate on the hymn text.

Come to the table of mercy, prepared with the wine and the bread. All who are hungry and thirsty, come, and your souls will be fed. Come at the Lord's invitation; received from his nail-scarred hand. Eat of the bread of salvation; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956. Tune: Come to the Table 88 87 87 87. Text and Music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved.