

God's Service Sunday, July 7, 2024
7th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion Setting Seven



WELCOME

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.

Let us take a moment now to prepare our hearts and minds for God's Service as we listen to the prelude.

PRELUDE *Immortal, Invisible* arr. by Long

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING SONG *Listen, God Is Calling: Neno lake Mungu* (ELW 513)

Refrain

(Listen,)

listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

(Listen,)

listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

1 (Jesus gave his mandate:)
share the good news
(that he came to save us)
and set us free. *Refrain*

2 (Let none be forgotten)
throughout the world.
(In the triune name of God)
go and baptize. *Refrain*

3 (Help us to be faithful,)
standing steadfast,
(walking in your precepts,)

led by your Word. *Refrain*

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GREETING (ELW p. 175)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 176)

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 178)

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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 123

¹ To you I lift ¹ up my eyes,
to you enthroned ¹ in the heavens.

² **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand ¹ of her mistress,**

so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show ¹ us your mercy. R

³ Have mercy upon us, O ¹ LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough ¹ of contempt,

⁴ **too much of the scorn of the in- ¹ dolent rich,
and of the derision ¹ of the proud. R**

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.

² 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. ³ And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ 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, ⁷ 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. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 179)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 180)

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True* (ELW 675)

- 1 O Christ, our light, O Radiance true,
shine forth on those estranged from you,
and bring them to your home again,
where their delight shall never end.
- 2 Fill with the radiance of your grace
the wand'ers lost in error's maze.
Set free all those whose hearts and minds
some deep delusion haunts and binds.
- 3 Lord, open all reluctant ears
and take away the needless fears
of those who tremble to express
the faith their inmost hearts confess.
- 4 Lord, let your mercy's gentle ray
shine down on others strayed away.
To those in conscience wounded sore

show heaven's waiting, open door.

5 Make theirs with ours a single voice
uplifted, ever to rejoice
with wond'ring gratitude and praise
to you, O Lord, for boundless grace.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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 Shirley, Jim, Melissa, Heather, Lars, Darla, Anna, Gene, Chris, Susan, Cheryl, and these others we name now in our hearts and with our voices. 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.

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed. 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 (ELW p. 180)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

As the children's song proclaims, "We are weak but he is strong," Yes, Jesus loves you and in our weakness God is strong. May we embrace, yes even boast like Paul in our weakness knowing that God's grace is sufficient for us, for God's power, mercy, grace and love is made perfect in weakness. In this vulnerable state of weakness we are sent to proclaim this marvelous gospel relying on God's strength. Let us do so as we share God's abundance that all may have enough. If you have offering to share today please raise your hand and the ushers will be by to collect it.

OFFERING MUSIC *O Christ Our Light* arr. by Lasky

SETTING OF THE TABLE *As Rain from the Clouds* (ELW 508)

- 1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

- 2 As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

- 2 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,
awaking and warming and healing our land.
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,

for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

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OFFERING 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 180)

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.

PREFACE (ELW p. 181)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 181)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 182)

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Receive who you are; Become what you receive; Come to the banquet, for all is now ready and there is a place at Christ's table for all.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 182)

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 182)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *He Comes to Us* arr. by Cooman

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.
AMEN.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 183)

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may

proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION (ELW p. 183)

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

And now as you go on your way, may Christ go with you.

May he go before you to lead you, behind you to encourage you, beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over you and always, always within you to give you his peace.

In the name of the Father, +and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING SONG *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies: America the Beautiful* (ELW 888)

- 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.

- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.

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.

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DISMISSAL (ELW p. 183)

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540

Thursday, July 11, 2024

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

Friday, July 12, 2024

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

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