

Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE

**He called the twelve
and began to send
them out two by two ...**



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

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

Kneel

P: God, our provider,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation.....LBW 507

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

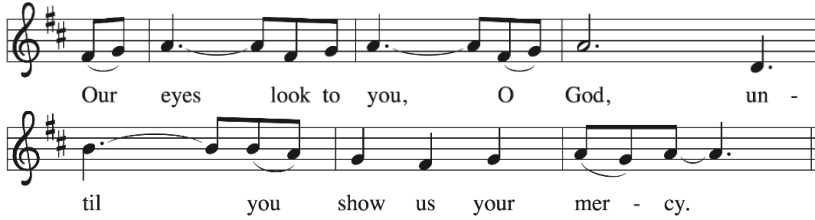
In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

A: A Reading from Ezekiel:

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

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 123*The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*


Our eyes look to you, O God, un -
til you show us your mer - cy.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.


¹To you I lift | up my eyes,
to you enthroned | 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 | of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show | us your mercy. R**

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

⁴**too much of the scorn of the in- | dolent rich, and of the derision | 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]: A Reading from Second Corinthians:

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

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: I will boast gladly | of my weaknesses,* so that the power of Christ may | dwell in me.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to 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. ¹⁰He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If 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." ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Ron Montgomery

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True LBW 380

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

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

After each petition:

P: In your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: 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.

C: **Amen**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown.They grew in your good plea - sure.
 3 Our hopes and dreams,our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



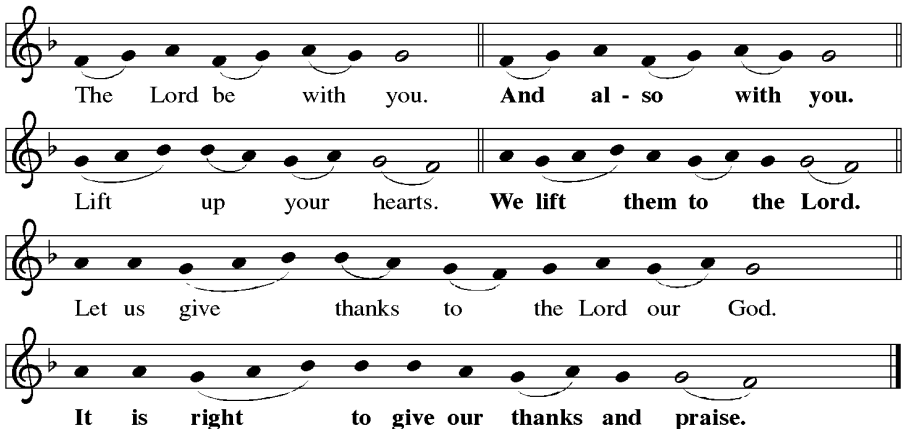
We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

C: 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



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
 that all those who believe in him should not perish,
 but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
 that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
 as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit
COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say:* Amen

COMMUNION HYMN
The Son of God, Our Chris..... LBW 434

Stand
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray:
 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.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

Battle Hymn of the Republic..... LBW 332

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Anita Bair; **Communion Assistant:** Candy Watkins; **Acolyte:** Karrah Bair; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris butt; **Greeters/Communion Presenters:** Mike and Dianne Larson; **Cantor:** Janet Stroble; **Flower Delivery:** Arch Watkins

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Miller with love by Linda, Mike, Nathan, Tammy and their families.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. A. Bruce and Virginia Amme's 51st wedding anniversary, by their children and grandchildren.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in honor of my granddaughter, Audrey Susan Hutchinson for her "sweet 16th" birthday.

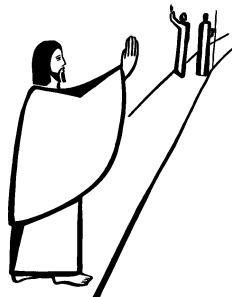
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. We hope to see you again.

This morning we welcome Pastor Ron Montgomery, preaching and presiding.

Knot-A-Sack Event – because it's "not" a sack until it's "knotted!" *Come and join us for our "Knotty Party" on any of the following Wednesdays in July:* July 10 ~ July 17 ~ July 24 ~ 9-11 a.m. Light refreshments will be offered. If you would like to help out but do not feel that you can manage the knots, please come anyway ... we can put you to work checking the knots, counting and stacking the finished packs neatly on the cart. *Many hands make light work!*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Pack the Pantry Challenge! Our shelves are definitely overflowing.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

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Sent Out

In today's gospel reading, Jesus sends the disciples out on their own (in pairs, but without him) to spread his message, and he gives them a packing list: no food, no bag, no money, no extra clothes—only the love and power of Christ, and the good will of the people they would encounter to support them. The disciples must have felt woefully unprepared. And yet Jesus sent them anyway.

As Christians, we may feel unprepared for our journeys. We know that the Lord has sent us out into a broken world to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, but . . . *How do we do that? What do we say? What if people don't want to hear the message? Isn't it impolite to discuss religion?* Surely the disciples shared those concerns. But they went anyway, trusting Jesus. And in trusting Jesus, they found that his message of repentance and salvation was well received. "They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them."

Perhaps this story can serve as inspiration in our own vocations. Although we may not know how to tell others about the love we've found in Jesus, we know that Jesus is supporting us in our meager efforts. We may fear rejection, but Jesus tells us to shake the dust from our feet and carry on. If we worry that we won't get it right, we can remember that the word of God does not return empty. In your baptism, Jesus has called you into his family. In holy communion, he nourishes you for the journey. Throughout your life, he gives you a story to tell others, and the power to share his good news. Take courage, Christian, and go forth in his name. He's got your back!

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