CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD, WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 7, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 901 EAST STROOP ROAD KETTERING, OH 45429-4688 (937) 298-0136

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Introduction

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.

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!

^{**} Indicates to stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

America, the Beautiful (ELW 888)



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

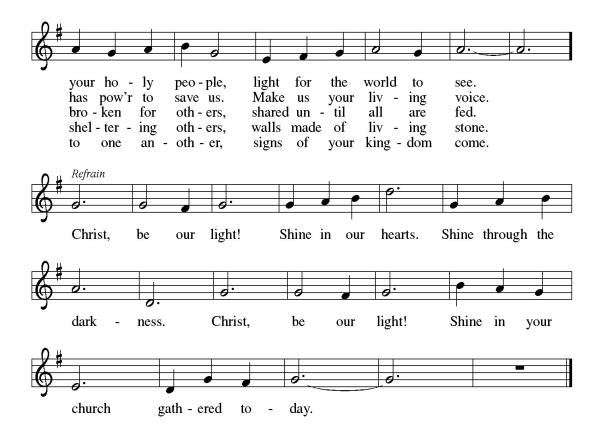
Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



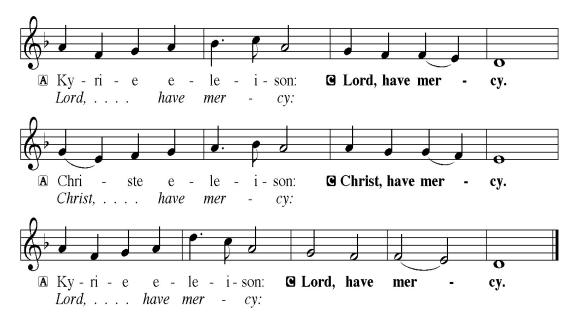
** GATHERING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)



** 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

Assistant Minister

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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING - ELCA YOUTH GATHERING ROWAN LINCH

Word

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

FIRST READING

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 the book of Lamentations.

[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

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

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.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalm 123

SECOND READING

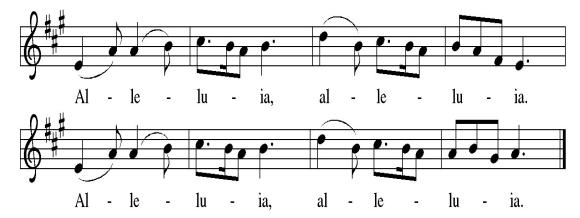
2 Corinthians 12:2-10

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 the second book of Corinthians.

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.



** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

** GOSPEL

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.

[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. Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Pr. Jamie Vannoy

I Will Follow

(Music Ministers) Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay; Where you move, I'll move. I will follow.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers) All your ways are good, all your ways are sure; I will trust in you alone. Higher than my sight, high above my life; I will trust in you alone.

(Refrain - All)

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay; Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you. Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve. If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah. I will follow you, yeah.

> (Verse 2 - Music Ministers) Light into the world, Light into my life, I will live for you alone. You're the One I seek, knowing I will find, All I need in you alone.

(Refrain - All) Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay; Where you move, I'll move. I will follow you. Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve. If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah. I will follow you, yeah.

> (Music Ministers) In you, there's life everlasting. In you, there's freedom for my soul. In you, there's joy, unending joy, And I will follow!

> > (All)

Where you go, I'll go; where you stay, I'll stay; Where you move, I'll move. I will follow. Whom you love, I'll love. How you serve, I'll serve. If this life I lose, I will follow you, yeah. I will follow you, yeah. I will follow you, yeah. I will follow you, yeah.

** NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assistant Minister

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

A brief silence is kept.

After each petition:

In your mercy, hear our prayer.

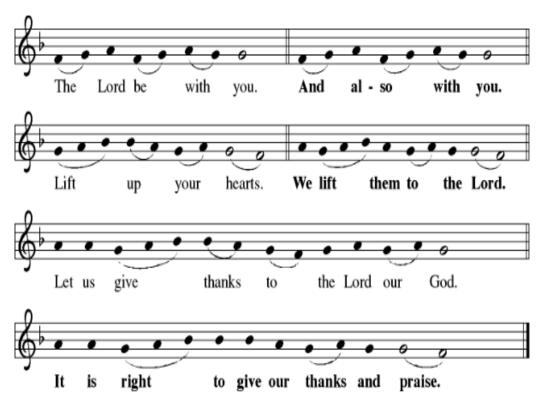
Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF GIFTS

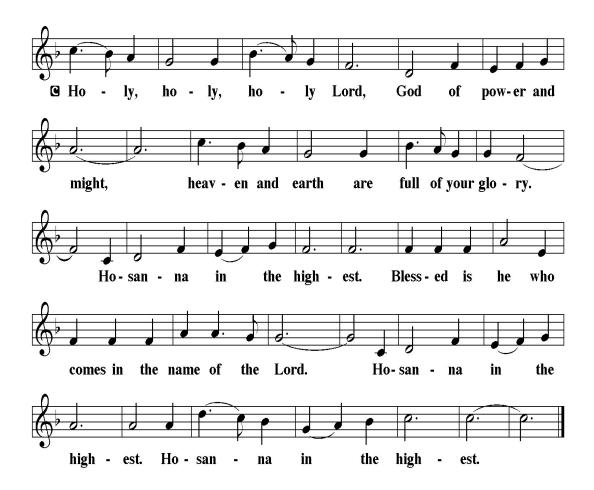
OFFERTORY

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

** DIALOGUE



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:

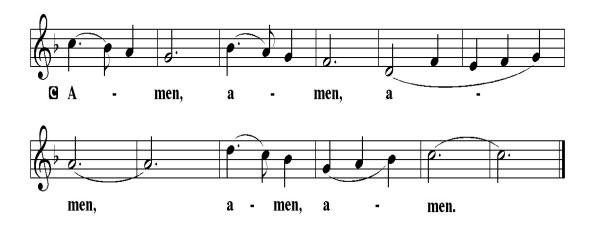


** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 (personal option - holding hands)

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

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

HOLY COMMUNION - Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Each person may respond:* **Amen.**

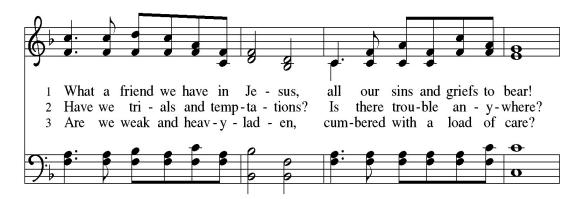
Communion Statement ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

LAMB OF GOD **C** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have us. of God, you take a - way Lamb the mer-cy on US. world; sin of the grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)





** TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant Minister

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.**

HYMN AFTER COMMUNION: The Canticle of Simeon



SENDING

** BLESSING

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

** SENDING HYMN

Everyday

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers) What to say, Lord? It's you who gave me life, And I can't explain Just how much you mean to me Now that you have saved me, Lord. I give all that I am to you, That everyday I can Be a light that shines your name.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers) Everyday, Lord, I'll learn to stand upon your Word, And I pray that I, I may come to know you more, That you would guide me In every single step I take, That everyday I can be your Light unto the world.

(Refrain - All) Everyday, it's you I'll live for. Everyday, I'll follow after you. Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers) Everyday, Lord, I'll learn to stand upon your Word, And I pray that I, I may come to know you more, That you would guide me In every single step I take, That everyday I can be your Light unto the world. (Refrain - All) Everyday, it's you I'll live for. Everyday, I'll follow after you. Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

Everyday, it's you I'll live for. Everyday, I'll follow after you. Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

> (Bridge - Music Ministers / **All**) It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday.

It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday.

It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday.

It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday, It's you I live for everyday.

(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers) Everyday, it's you I'll live for. Everyday, I'll follow after you. Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.

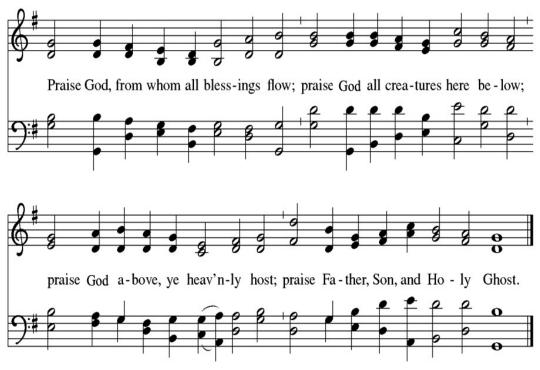
> Everyday, it's you I'll live for. Everyday, I'll follow after you. Everyday, I'll walk with you -

Solo: It's you I live for everyday.

** **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!



POSTLUDE

"W + 2" = Worship Plus Two Make a commitment to not only worship each week but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation and seek out a way to serve our community.

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

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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