

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 18, 2023

IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

10:00 a.m.



THE ENTRANCE RITE

PRELUDE

Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship

Setting: Gregory Hamilton

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN

Lord, This Day We've Come to Worship

LSB 911

- 1 **Lord, this day we've come to worship;
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Grace us with Your blessed presence;
Blessè Savior, be our host. *Refrain***

Refrain
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, praise the Lord!
- 2 **In the pow'r of resurrection
We have come to praise the Lord,
Celebrate His blessed supper,
And to learn His holy Word. *Refrain***
- 3 **May Your Word enrich our spirit,
Give us strength to do Your will,
Show the kingdom we'll inherit,
When at last our voice is still. *Refrain***

**4 As we meet our blessed Savior
At the Table of the Lord,
May this body broken for us
Strength and comfort, Lord, afford. *Refrain***

**5 Celebrate the resurrection
In the church and sing His praise,
Till we come to true perfection:
Serve the Lord through all our days. *Refrain***

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 203

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

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 204

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty, eternal God,
**in the Word of Your apostles and prophets You have proclaimed to us Your saving
will. Grant us faith to believe Your promises that we may receive eternal salvation;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON (Be seated)

Exodus 19:2-8

[The people of Israel] set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus

you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100 (Sung responsively)

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:6-15

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall

we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(10:30) CHILDREN'S SERMON

ALLELUIA VERSE (Stand)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th and 10th chapters

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON (Be seated)

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus. Amen. Dear friends in Christ:

Last Sunday we heard the story of Jesus calling Matthew to follow him. Matthew was called to leave his life of sin and become a disciple of Jesus instead. This story was – and is – very timely for us in the church right now, because during these many Sundays after Pentecost our focus is all about discipleship.

Matthew’s calling highlights the fact that Jesus’ call comes to individuals. Each of receives our own call to follow. Likewise, each of us then decides – moved and guided by the Holy Spirit – how we will respond.

If last Sunday’s text focused on the call of an individual, this Sunday’s discipleship focus turns corporate. And this is no surprise, for from the beginning God has been a gatherer.

God spoke creation into existence. And he formed the first man by gathering dust from the earth, remember? The man’s name, Adam, even reflects this origin, for it comes from the word for ground.

God’s creation was all good, except that man was alone. So God, who is communal in His own nature by virtue of being triune, established the first human community. He did this by creating the woman to complement the man. The two were brought together as one flesh, highlighting the depth of the community which was formed.

This perfect situation did not last long, however. Sin soon drove them apart. And ever since, the human condition has been a paradoxical struggle of people coming together and people being torn apart.

In his plan to restore creation, God once again went to the communal drawing board. He sought out an old couple, Abraham and Sarah, whose ability to procreate was long gone. Miraculously, he expanded their family, giving them a son. And through this small but spiritually gathered people, God then started to bless all nations – doing so with a promise.

As the family grew, God often had to rescue and restore it. He did so quite gloriously when he rescued them from Egypt. In our Old Testament reading today we heard God reminding his people of this rescue and adding that he did it so that if they obeyed his voice and kept his covenant, they would be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. God, we see, wanted this to be a special kind of community.

Then, when the time was right, God took the ultimate step of rescue and restoration. He sent another miraculous son – this time his own. Through this Son God dealt with human sin, so that people could be brought together in the power and joy of God's grace. This then commenced the greatest of all gatherings – where people from the east and the west, the north and the south all started coming together to live under Christ's gracious rule and reign.

Hearing about this communal focus of our God, we should not be surprised to hear that Jesus, early in his ministry, called together a community of disciples. Today's reading tells us about twelve of them – a special twelve. But even more, the reading serves to remind us that when God calls someone to be His disciple, he never leaves them alone. He calls them into a new communal existence with all fellow believers.

Last week, when hearing about the call of Matthew, we noted that Matthew – even though he was called to a new community – was not told that he needed to abandon his old one. He and Jesus dined with those old friends of his, remember?

What was different, however, was that those old friends were now to be the focus of mission and not so much a source of support. Those friends were to be urged to leave their sinful ways and follow Jesus as a disciple too.

Here we see that the community Jesus calls and gathers together is not simply to be a community turned in on itself – one that only meets its own needs and serves its own purposes. Rather, the community of Christ is to be a working community.

Right before the listing of the special twelve disciples, Jesus asks all those who were following him as disciples to pray earnestly to the Lord to send out laborers into his harvest. Jesus was looking for workers. It was time for his work to begin.

When we hear the call of Jesus to follow him, we may think that this is simply a call to listen and learn. Listening and learning are indeed important. But when we follow Jesus, we see that he also leads us into efforts of work. Work is an essential part of our following.

And this work stems from the compassion that Jesus works in our hearts – a compassion seen in the heart of Jesus himself. Today's text tells of this compassion by explaining how Jesus saw that the people were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Last Sunday, Jesus showed his compassion by speaking of sinners as sick instead of bad. Here he shows his compassion through his understanding that people are "harassed and helpless."

And yes, as we noted last week too, people are ultimately responsible for their own sin. No one can say "the devil made me do it," because he didn't.

But it's tough to do the right thing when you are harassed by forces more powerful than you. And great temptations can leave us feeling quite helpless.

Jesus offers shepherding help. He teaches, encourages, inspires and loves. These help us overcome our temptations.

What's more, he also forgives. And his forgiveness then moves us to forgive one another.

Jesus teaches his disciples to do this same kind of shepherding work. Reading through today's text we clearly see that the work Jesus does himself – listed in our text's first verse (9:35) – is the same work given to his followers to do.

And our text has another direct way of communicating this call of the disciple to work as well. Notice that the followers of Jesus had all been called "disciples" until this point. But once they were taught and sent out, they were then called "apostles." The word "apostles" comes from the word meaning "sent." In fact this same word is found as a verb in that verse of the text which says, "these twelve Jesus sent out."

Years later, after Jesus had risen from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to his followers, these twelve would bear the title “apostle” as an indicator of their authority among their fellow believers.

And yet notice that the twelve were given authority in today’s text too. They were given “authority over unclean spirits; to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.”

Here we are reminded that Jesus does not send out his disciples unequipped. He gives the Holy Spirit. And with the Spirit comes authority over evil.

About that authority, we may sometimes wonder what it means. And we may question whether we really have the power to cast evil out. That kind of thing seems beyond us.

But remember that an evil spirit’s greatest power is that of untruth. Casting out untruth is done as we counter with the word of God. The word of God is something we can see, learn, remember and know. We can all cast out evil by sharing God’s truth.

As we think about being equipped with the Spirit, we sometimes think of this as the Spirit giving us great and unique powers to do our work. This can, of course, be the case, for people can do amazing things when gifted by the Spirit.

But just the same, the Spirit works through ordinary means – the word and the sacraments. These work by communicating the power of God’s great gift of love. These seemingly ordinary means are in fact quite powerful in their effect.

If we step back and look at this text to see its message as a whole, we notice that it gives us a very basic pattern: that of compassion and sending. Jesus had compassion on people and then sent people.

Here we see a pattern for our ongoing life of discipleship. Jesus loves us and sends us. He loves us in order to build us up. And he sends us in order to serve.

And because Jesus knows that the sending work gets tough, he continues to love us again and again and again. As much as we need. In fact we will never be sent without first being loved.

Christians are both loved and sent. They have been loved by God in Christ, which is the promise of the Gospel. And they have been sent by Christ in the Spirit, which then

spreads God's love to even more. Out of divine favor, and nothing else, Jesus brings forgiveness, life, and salvation to sinful human beings who would be lost without him.

Today's reading shows how his compassion for the crowds (which included his disciples) led him to preach, heal, and restore. That same compassion eventually led him to the cross. And on that cross, he paid for the sin of the world. Here we see the fullness of his love – shown to us and all people.

Those who receive his love he then sends. In this text, the disciples were sent only to the lost sheep of Israel. But that changed after his resurrection. After that, Jesus extended the mission of his disciples to include all nations.

The mission of Jesus is to bring life to all. And it will be carried out by those who have already been loved. For the true love given by God is incapable of sitting still.

God's love for his creation has always moved him to save his wandering sheep. And God's love for his disciples then moves them to go where Jesus sends.

So ask yourself today: where is God sending you? Who in your circles needs a word of encouragement? Who do you know that needs a bit of Christian advice? Who needs a little shepherding? Who might be open to hear a proclamation of God's love in Jesus Christ?

"As the Father sent me, I am sending you," said Jesus at the end of his ministry. And Jesus sends us together, just as he gathers us together.

Over the years I have found that I am becoming more and more thankful for my fellow pastors. We share a special bond because of our common work and common challenges, and I am grateful for those times when we can be together and support one another. I had one of those times this past week.

In the same way, I hope that you are becoming more and more thankful for your fellow church members. You share a special bond because of your common work and common challenges. And though you may be very different from one another in certain ways, you share so much in common too. Because of this, you have a unique opportunity to support and encourage one another as fellow believers.

God wishes to gather us together – not just in body but in soul. Our sending together will be greater than any individual sending we can do on our own.

May God then reinforce his call to each of us. And may he bring us together as his people, so that together we may serve joyfully in his name.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing

LSB 847

- 1 Christ, our human likeness sharing,
Heaven's love on earth portrayed;
Christ the Shepherd, tending, caring,
In His death our ransom paid:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,
Be Your life in us displayed.**

- 2 Hear the word that Christ has spoken,
Help the weak, the hungry feed;
See the pow'rs of darkness broken,
Sinners pardoned, captives freed:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,
Help us meet our neighbor's need.**

- 3 Christ, in ev'ry congregation
Build Your temple, stone by stone,
With Your word as firm foundation
For a faith matured and grown:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,
Make in us Your Gospel known.**

- 4 Come, O living Christ, renew us,
As of old in wind and flame;
With the Spirit's pow'r endue us,
Servants of Your saving name:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant,
Christ whose kingdom we proclaim.**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

Offerings support the church's mission work – both here and through our many partners. Offerings may be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance or sent to the church through our website or the mail. Fellowship Cards help us welcome new people and track participation. Please fill one out and place it in the offering box following the service.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, You treasure Your people for Christ's sake and give us Your commandments to guide our ways. Grant that we, redeemed by His blood, may do all that He has spoken. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, send forth laborers to make known the Gospel of Your kingdom in Christ Jesus. Prosper the labor of pastors, missionaries and all church workers; and give to

each of us the desire and ability to share your love with others through our witness and service, that many peoples may hear, believe and praise You. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O righteous Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and earth is named, give Your grace to the fathers and sons of Your Church. Inspire them by Your own example and the example of Your beloved Son to be perfectly united in faith, hope and love. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, bless our nation and all nations of the world. And turn the eyes of all who make, execute and judge our laws to You, that they may receive wisdom and strength to faithfully carry out their duties. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, our God, the earth still yields its increase under Your care and preservation. Bless us with daily bread and give us wisdom as stewards of Your creation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Son demonstrated His power over sin by healing every disease and affliction. Give healing to those in need especially Geraine, Ann, Sophia, Dolly, Norma, Brooks, Trudy, Mary Ann, June, Peter, Wendy, Ron, James, Trey, Russell, Rich and all whom we name in our hearts at this time... Strengthen them in faith and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, You once descended on Mount Sinai and bid Moses to come into Your presence. Prepare the hearts of all who come into your presence at this altar today, that they may receive Christ's body and blood for their forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O blessed Lord, through Moses You called a people to Yourself, and from them You delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior. By His sufferings and death, He has redeemed us sinners from our sins. By His resurrection, He has released us from the fear of death. Help us to live as Your people, doing the good works for which we were created, and praying with confidence the petitions and supplications of our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE (Stand)

LSB 208-210

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 208

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 210

- 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

THE COMMUNION (Be seated)

The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the receptacles.

- 1** **What is this bread?**
Christ's body risen from the dead:
 This bread we break,
 This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.
- 2** **What is this wine?**
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.
- 3** **So who am I,**
That I should live and He should die
 Under the rod?
 My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.
- 4** **Yet is God here?**
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
 In mouth and soul
 He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.
- 5** **Is this for me?**
I am forgiven and set free!
 I do believe
 That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

**1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

PRAYER (Stand)

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

LSB 830

**1 Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call
To His heav'nly banquet hall.**

**2 Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save.**

**3 Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice.**

**4 Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.**

**5 Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do!**

**6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Spread the Reign of God the Lord

Setting: Stephen P. Johnson

Those serving:

Sunday, June 18, 10:00 a.m.:

Greeter: Aaron Siebrass

Comm. assist: Judy Koucky

Reader: Dale Rogers

AV Assistants: Hannes Buuck
Andreas Buuck

Fellowship Contributors: Board of Fellowship

Acknowledgments

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