



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

July 4, 2021, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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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.

### Prelude

Pat Anderson

**Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion, Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: 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.**

L: 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.**

**Hymn “How Firm a Foundation” (vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

**Red Worship Book 796**

**1** How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

**2** "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

**4** "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

### Greeting

**Red Worship Book pg. 147**

L: 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.**

## Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

L: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## Prayer of the Day

L: 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.**

*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.*

## First Reading: Ezekiel 2:1-5

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

## Psalm: Psalm 123

L: To you I lift up my eyes,

**C: to you enthroned in the heavens.**

L: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

**C: so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.**

L: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,

**C: for we have had more than enough of contempt,**

L: too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,

**C: and of the derision of the proud.**

*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.*

## **Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

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

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Red Worship Book pg. 151**

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

### **The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

**Red Worship Book pg. 151**

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

### **Gospel: Mark 6:1-13**

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

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>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.” <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

### **The Gospel of Our Lord**

**C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

**Red Worship Book pg. 151**

### **Children's Sermon**

**Sermon: Rejection, Mission and Faith-Mark 6:1-13**

**Pastor Brenda Wicklund**

Jesus began teaching in his hometown synagogue, and it went well, until it did not. He has had great results up until this time. People were responding, people healed and forgiven; a woman healed after 12 years of suffering and a twelve-year-old girl wakes up and lives after being dead.

They were astounded at his wisdom and wondered: who does he think he is? We know him, we know what he did when he was younger, who his “parent” was, rumors of Joseph and you know those rumors about Mary, and this just does not look like we have a learned person here. They knew all the scandals. Astounded by his wisdom as one with authority. The amazement went to negative, knowing all too well to much about him. A father that is not your father would have been scandalous they do not even mention that Joseph was his father. It sounds like it could be a drama for TV. “Prophets are not welcomed in their hometown (Mark 6:4).” Jesus is saying something about himself when he shares this.

Without faith in the one, that is performing miracles and listening. Jesus is amazed at their lack of faith. Even Jesus could not perform miracles when this happened. When faith is in the dumpster. Like the Gospel he is proclaiming is a scandal. He could have still performed when they had lack of faith, but will evaluate the lack of faith in the area. Faith is critical in the life of mission. Yet, it does not linger for long. The commissioning of the disciples begins and it is not going to hinder the Gospel and Good News, yet it may be showing them how things may go. You know, trying something new, making a mistake, failing all of these things can happen in the life of the church and the mission we all share. Some things just take off and are wonderful, some not so well.

It is disappointing, it is hard and it is tough. Yet, we plant our seeds, looking for an outcome that only faith in God can make happen. Jesus kept teaching. The disciples, called to continue to go to households and homes to spread the news, two by two. Do not take too much with you, and if you are not welcomed, just shake of the dust from your feet and leave. It was going to be hard to try new ideas and beginnings with a synagogue that was rooted in tradition, which is not all bad, yet the Messiah and the Reign of God was before them. This needed proclamation and faith to change the way of the world back then, up until right now.

The disciples were going out to proclaim repentance, turn around, change and heal those who were sick, needing curing and healing. From the inside out. Rejection be gone, let us do what we can with what we have and keep trusting in God. The mission became successful.

In the midst of 4 July, the United States independence day we celebrate an old beginning and continue to celebrate. “God Bless the United States of America” proclaimed for our country. Indeed, it should. What would our mantra be here at the church? What do we have going forward in our faith for the church of Jesus Christ? Lord have mercy? How after this year and a half of so many heartaches, and joys, do we proclaim the reign of God in faithful mission to the God who sent his Son, Jesus Christ to be human and forthcoming, suffering and death, to overcome the cross and death? What is our go to proclamation? Saved by grace? Washed in the waters?

What does that mean to be a part of the Kingdom of God? How do we live out our faithful calling to our call at First Evangelical Lutheran Church? A wonderful memory of the Holy Spirit was about 5 years ago here. A young boy had been coming to Faith in Action, and he wanted to be baptized. I continued to talk to mom and grandma. He wanted to be washed in the waters of his baptism and he was going on faith. Maybe he was ten years old. What a glorious morning when he came with his white shirt and tie. He was washed. He was forgiven and he was called to share his faith. When everyone came up for Holy Communion, I had asked everyone to dip their hands in the water and seal themselves with the sign of the cross, in remembrance of their baptism. He did, but he noticed his mom had not sealed herself. He walked back up, dipped his hand in the water again, and sealed his mom with the cross a blessing that he was going on in faith. He was already, within minutes, sharing his faith. I am certain that he is living his faith performing miraculous things, the seed planted and growing. Faith in God and the Son, Jesus Christ will do that to you. Go in faith. Amen.

**Hymn**                    **“Lord, You Give the Great Commission” (vs. 1, 2 &5)**                    **Red Worship Book 579**

**1** Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word." Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard, help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:

*Refrain: With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.*

**2** Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name baptize and teach." That the world may trust your promise,

life abundant meant for each, give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: *Refrain*

5 Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end." Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: *Refrain*

**Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.**

L: 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. **C: Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

L: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*(A brief silence.)*

L: God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**C: Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**Red Worship Book pg. 152**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Red Worship Book pg. 153**

L: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

## Words of Institution

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.

## The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

**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.**

## Lamb of God

Red Worship Book pg. 154

L: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

Red Worship Book 474

*Refrain: Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given, we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.*

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away; set your hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself for the life of the world. Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the lifegiving Word. Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain*
- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain*

## Prayer after Communion

L: 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.**

## Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

Red Worship Book 890

- 1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: his truth is marching on. *Refrain: Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*
- 2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat. Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on. *Refrain*
- 3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me. As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on. *Refrain*

## Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*the worship is ended ... let the service begin...*

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**\*\*The Noisy offering this month is for Foster Child Bags, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**

## Next Week's Readings and Psalm

### First Reading

**Amos 7:7-15**

### Second Reading

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

### Psalm

**Psalm 85:8-13**

### Gospel

**Mark 6:14-29**

## *Sunday Filming*

**\*\* Just a reminder that in-gathering Worship, is being filmed "LIVE."**



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**If you are interested in joining the church, we will be having new member introduction and dinner July 19th at 5 pm. with new members joining Sunday, July 25th during Worship Service. Please let Pastor Brenda know or the church office. Thank You!**



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**Holy Communion instruction training**, is being offered at First Lutheran Church for any child that has not had their training in Holy Communion.

Age requirement is 1<sup>st</sup> grade and up. These classes are the beginning of our learning about Holy Communion and no matter the age, we grow and learn more about this every time we worship and hear the words of Institution.

We will be meeting Mon., July 26- Tues., July 27<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm at church. Please call Pastor Brenda or the church office to sign-up.

First Communion will be on Sun., August 1<sup>st</sup> during the 9:30 am Worship Service.



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**Prayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~ Carol Winson (Marina Vork's daughter), Tyler (son of Jan Peura), Jeremy (friend of Sheila Jensen), Adam Alexander, Christine Baker (granddaughter of Judy Smith), Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny), Pearl Anderson (sister of Joyce Seegebarth), John Bassett, Peter Thorvig and Carol Bostrom.

**For our members in care facilities** ~ Ruta Kalnins, Freida Pfahl and Dorothy Svendsen.

**For firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace. For our companion synods.**

**For our missionaries:** Jacqueline and Patrick Becker

## **Announcements/Calendar**

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion;

**Tues.** 9:30 am Women's Bible Study; 5-6:30 pm Community Meal.

**Wed.** Noon Staff mtg.; 5-6 pm Mission Trip Check-In; 6-9 pm Youth Group-Pizza, campfire, smore's and movie.

**Thurs.** 7 am Men's Text Study; Mindy Networking mtg.

**Fri.** Corn and Clover Carnival

**Sat.** Corn and Clover Carnival; 8 pm AA mtg.

**Sun.** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion; Mission Trip Youth Pie Social after Worship.

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## **Upcoming Events**

**Sat. 17-Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> OR Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky**

**Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, Church Council (following service)**

**Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, August Newsletter Deadline; 5 pm New Member Intro and Dinner**

**Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, Receiving New Member**

**Monday & Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, Holy Communion Instruction Training (3- 5:00 pm)**