

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 4, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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 who whom we are sent.

✝ GATHERING ✝

OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

#507

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

on screen

GREETING on screen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. God of the covenant, in our baptism You called 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 Lord.

C. Amen.

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

In 597 B.C., 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.

He 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.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 123

Our eyes look to You, O God, until You show us Your mercy.

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

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

³so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
until He show us His mercy.

⁴Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁵too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

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.

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. 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.

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL: St. 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.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

He left that place and 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.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY***The Son of God, Our Christ*

#434

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P. ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**ANNOUNCEMENTS****OFFERING /OFFERTORY***Let the vineyards....*

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

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✠ MEAL ✠

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. You are indeed holy ... accomplished our salvation.

C. **Amen.**

P. In the night in ... the Lord's death until He comes.

C. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P. Send now Your Holy Spirit ... both now and forever. C. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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POST-COMMUNION SONG *Thank the Lord*

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Jesus Christ, You have given . . . Lord forevermore. C. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God

Musician: Terry Dybsetter

Camera: Josh Sumption

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Sara Wollum

Projection: James Kamrath/Kendon Knutson
Katie Munter

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Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson

Shirlee Gabbert, Bill and Karen Pohlen

Carol Moon, Gail Sumption

June 27, 2021

General: \$2,639.50 (\$649.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$1,000 from Hemnes Lutheran Church. \$200.00 for funeral luncheon.

Savings: \$460.00

Includes: \$140.00 in memory of Jim and Sylvia Pridal. \$70.00 in memory of Norma Dovre. \$70.00 in memory of Bill Ningen. \$100.00 for cemetery plots. \$80.00 for Organ.

		Year:	2021		
		Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 125,474.84	*Includes all Bethel and Parish related expenses	
		Monthly revenue required to meet budget:	\$ 10,456.24		

Year to Date Actual Revenue and Budgeted Expenses Comparison-

This report is based on budgeted expenses divided evenly for each month of the calendar year. Actual expenses per month vary greatly. This analysis is to be used as a guideline, and not a full representation of the full financial health of Bethel Lutheran Church.

This report now includes revenues received from Hemne Lutheran Church as they are applied to all expenses related to the Bethel Lutheran Joint Parish.

	Total Revenue for Month	Year to Date Revenue	Year to Date Budgeted Expense	Year to Date Difference: shortfalls shown as negative numbers	Cash Reserves Expended	Cash Reserves Repaid	Reserves Repaid Month
January	\$7,250.77	\$7,250.77	\$10,456.24	-\$3,205.47			
February	\$8,238.97	\$15,489.74	\$20,912.47	-\$5,422.73	-\$2,000.00		
March	\$32,501.42	\$32,501.42	\$31,368.71	\$1,132.71			
April	\$8,264.64	\$40,766.06	\$41,824.95	-\$1,058.89			
May	\$11,343.73	\$52,109.79	\$52,281.18	-\$171.39			
June	\$5,763.00	\$57,872.79	\$62,737.42	-\$4,864.63			

Acknowledgements

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Dependence Day

Today marks the 245th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the American colonies. Celebrations in the United States will mark the historical claiming of independence, but also will highlight aspects of American national identity such as individualism.

On this day when many in the United States revel in independence, we encounter a gospel story grounded entirely in *dependence*. Jesus does not send out disciples on their own, but rather as pairs. He orders them to take nothing with them except what they are wearing. As they travel from place to place, they will be entirely dependent on the hospitality of those they encounter for food, water, shelter, and other needs that arise along the way.

As they cast out demons and heal people, it is not through their own power, but their dependence on Jesus. Even Jesus has a touch of dependence in this story. The people of Nazareth cannot see past the little boy He was, to the powerful prophet and teacher He has become. This somehow limits the deeds of power He can accomplish among them. The expectations of the town's people seem to get in the way.

The risen Jesus certainly breaks all sorts of expectations, and Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the creed reminds us that it is not by our own power that we come to faith, but that the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian Church" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1162).

Our gospel for today, alongside Luther's reflection, reminds us that part of the gift of life we have in Christ is community—dependent, loving, compassionate, frustrating, messy, blessed community. We call this community the Church, the body of Christ. All its members are gifted, all of them necessary, all of them dependent on one another. In this dependence is strength, joy, and hope. Thanks be to God.