

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



July 4, 2021

10:00 a.m.

**We welcome Olivia Ahyoung, guest musician.**

## 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.*

## PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Congregation (C) Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
 2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
 4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
 part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
 foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
 birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
 dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
 cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
 tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
 sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
 not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

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## 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. | Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



## 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.



+ WORD +

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5**

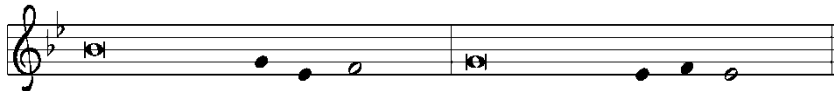
*In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

<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.

Reader           The word of the Lord.

**C               Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 123**   *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>To you I lift | up my eyes,  
to you enthroned | in the heavens.

**C           <sup>2</sup>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.**

L           <sup>3</sup>Have mercy upon us, O | LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough | of contempt,



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### 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 Mark, the sixth chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

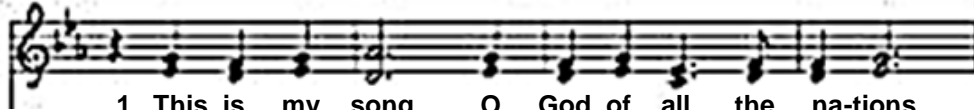
Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but 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.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

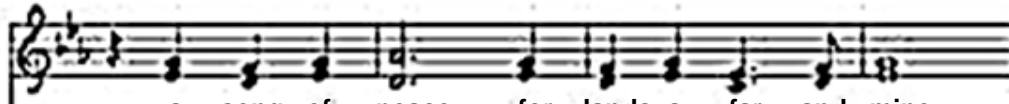
**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 887 *This Is My Song*



1 This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,  
2 My coun-try's skies are blu—er than the o - cean,  
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.  
and sun-light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.  
your king-dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;  
But oth - er lands have sun-light too, and clo - ver,  
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;  
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.  
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat-ing  
So hear my song, O God of all the na-tions,  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na-tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
a song of peace for their land and for mine.  
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Ebenezer 1812-1863, nos. 1-2. Copyright in Helsinki, 1894-1896, at 5.  
Music: HENRIK LARSSON, from *Sånger*, 1865-1867.  
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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

A Let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A 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.**

A 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.**

A 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.**

A 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A 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.**

A Let us offer other prayers and thanksgivings, including particular needs and requests for healing, either silently or aloud...Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A 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.**

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

**C Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pan Green, 1903-2000  
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
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 Dandel USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*


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

C Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN

546 *To Be Your Presence*



1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com-  
2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the  
3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for  
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas-sion's face and lis-t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer-cy  
poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus-tice,  
all the bro-ken and op-pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo-ple is our call and choice, and in this mis-sion we, the

ev-er near,  
right up-hold, al-le-lu-ia!  
love ex-pressed,  
church, re-joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939  
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## DISMISSAL

P We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**Calendar for July 4 - 11**

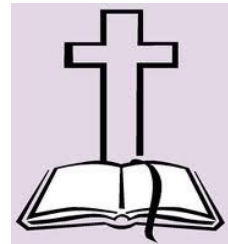
July	4	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
	7	Wed.		<b>NO</b> Bible study
July	11	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
			11:30 am	Council meeting

*\*The office will be closed on July 5 in observance of Independence Day.*

*\*Pastor Tom is on vacation through July 6.*

**Next Sunday's Readings, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost:**

**Amos 7:7-15**  
**Psalm 85:8-13**  
**Ephesians 1:3-14**  
**Mark 6:14-29**



Serving	July 4	July 11
<b>Presiding</b>		Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Ron Hartung	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt Audrey Post	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Lector</b>	Vivien Muchuruza	Jake Hartung
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Rita Ford Susan Warren
<b>Counters</b>	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman
<b>Announcements</b>		

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be after worship service on Sunday, July 18, both “live” and via Zoom.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:** Now that we are back to in-person worship service, we are in need of more worship assistants, mainly Cup Ministers. If you are interested, please contact Lori in the office.

**PASTOR TOM** will be out from June 24-July 6. Pr. Jenn of Grace Lutheran Church will be providing pastoral care during his absence. She may be reached at 570-764-5333 or email: [pastorjenn@rocketmail.com](mailto:pastorjenn@rocketmail.com).

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2021:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2021 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

**RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK:** Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.