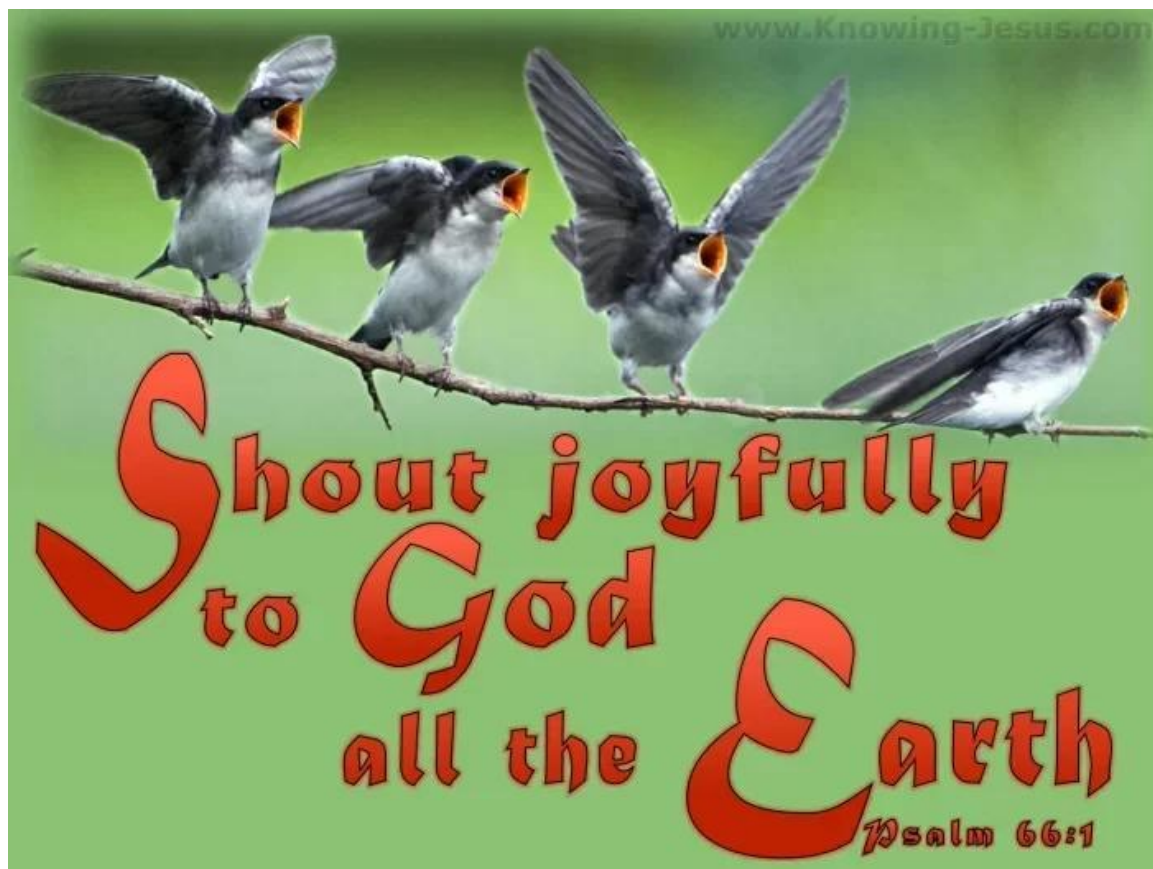


The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 3, 2022



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! As long as the weather cooperates, we gather outside in God's Creation worship with singing and loud shouts of praise.

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the side driveway. Please keep in mind potential wind that may affect your Communion cups.
- You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like. Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
- An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Pianist
Lector
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People
The Rev. Harry Werner
Robin Crawford
Ted Lockmiller
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Rd.
Maple Heights, OH 44137
Phone: 216-662-0370 Website: covenantmaplehts.org
Email: covenantlc@sbcglobal.net*

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

Prelude *Wade in the Water* (Ridge Love)

Welcome & Greetings

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, uniting us as one family in Christ, and setting us free to serve as his disciples for the sake of the world.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen!

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not always followed a path of steadfast love
but have often chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too frequently passed by on the other side.**

Help us to see the path of new life and hope.

**Save us from ourselves,
and free us to love our neighbors with joy.**

Amen!

Hear the good news!
 God does not deal with us according to our sins
 but thoroughly delights in granting pardon and mercy.
 In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 You are set free to love as God loves the whole world.
Amen!

Gathering Hymn *We All Are One in Mission*

ELW #576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Greeting

The grace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! **And also with you.**

Canticle of Praise *Now the Feast*

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

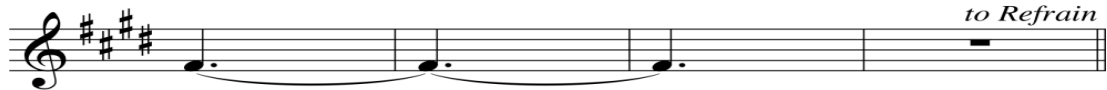
(continued)

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -



nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of



God.

Verse 2



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ



for ev - er.

Verse 3



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to



make us peo - ple of God; to make



all things new.

Prayer of the Day

O God, loving Father, you are our fortress who shelters us, the mother who comforts us. As the Holy Spirit, accompany us throughout our life's journey, that we may spread your peace to all those we meet, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her—

¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious bosom.

¹²For thus says the LORD:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 66:1-9

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands;
be joyful, all the earth.

²**Sing the glory of God's name;
sing the glory of God's praise.**

³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

**⁴All the earth bows down before you,
sings to you, sings out your name.”**

⁵Come now and see the works of God,
how awesome are God’s deeds toward all people.

**⁶God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot,
and there we rejoiced in God.**

⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations;
let no rebels exalt themselves.

**⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.**

⁹Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.

Second Lesson

Galatians 6:7-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in “the family of faith.”

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Verse

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

The Gospel according to Luke 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” ¹⁸He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.

¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Lord You Give the Great Commission*

ELW #579



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934
 Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the harvest, you send your whole church into the world to proclaim Christ's new creation to all. Renew our Covenant family as we do our part in carrying out your mission of peace and healing to our homes and surrounding communities. Watch over all missionaries throughout the world who accompany your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation abounds with flowing waters and diverse creatures. Guide the work of climate scientists as they develop and advocate ways to restore earth's natural balance. Motivate humankind to adopt lifestyles that protect and sustain the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You guard all the nations. May no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Holy Spirit of new life, eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire abundant life for all. As we celebrate Independence Day, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, and comfort all who are dying or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the saints who proclaimed your reign on earth and now rest in you. Make us faithful in our witness to Christ's new creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen!**

Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise!**

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love. And so with the church on earth and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
 our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
 in the harmonious world of your creation,
 the plants and animals,
 the seas and stars
 were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
 you sent your Son to heal our ills
 and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, continue to come upon us and upon this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Taste the banquet of everlasting life!
Thanks be to God!

Communion

Music Interlude *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* (Robertson)

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may know your never-ending love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord.
Amen!

Blessing

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen!**

Sending Hymn *Go to the World*

ACS #991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourselves!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Glory To His Name* (Stockton)

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 6/26/2022: \$1732

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Joan Clarke, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Debbie Morris, Phyllis Nemeth, Sam Reddig, Steve Senderak, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.



We have started updating our Covenant congregation directory, not only with revised phone numbers, email and physical/mailling addresses, but also including pictures with this one as well. However, we're going to try something new this time around. Instead of having you come to Covenant for an appointment with a photographer, we're inviting you to

send in your own picture of yourself, you and your loved one, or your family. This does not have to be professionally done. Feel free to make it your own. Make it fun and creative, if you like. Take it outside in nature. Include your pets, if you want. It can be in-the-moment laughter. We would like this to be an enjoyable Covenant family project for the summer. Then, you can send the picture in via email, mail, or dropping it off at the church. If you need help taking a picture, please contact Jen at the church office, and we will be happy to make arrangements to do so.

Lectionary Blog: Cities of Peace



I don't know about the rest of you, but these last couple of months have left me feeling burdened. Far too many of our streets, stores, schools and places of worship are dangerous or even deadly. I want to feel, and I want all our neighbors to feel, peace and safety in our lives. I believe this longing for peace in our cities is intimately tied to God's reign.

When Jesus prepared the 72 to go before him into the villages that he would visit, he gave specific instructions: they were to heal people and announce that “the kingdom of God has come near to you” (Luke 10:9). That way, when Jesus finally arrived, the people would have already witnessed God's power and would have had their curiosity piqued to know more about the movement of the kingdom.

But it wasn't an easy mission. Jesus sent this large number of disciples out as sheep among wolves (Luke 10:3) and gave them two litmus tests for evaluating their new environments. In the first case, they were to find a house in which to lodge. They were to eat whatever they were served and not leave one house for another (Luke 10:5-7). For the test they would say, “Peace to this house,” and if a peaceful person was there, some of the disciples' peace would rest on that person. If there wasn't a peaceful person in the house, the disciples' peace would return to them. Either way, the disciple was to stay in that house as long as she or he stayed in the town.

Jesus also instructed the disciples to test the town as a whole. If the disciples and their message were received, they should heal the sick and announce the good news that the kingdom of God was near. If they weren't received, the disciples should publicly wipe the dust of that town from their feet and proclaim the *bad* news (for that town, anyway) that the kingdom of God was near. Jesus sent his disciples ahead of him to identify cities of peace that welcomed strangers as blessings and were curious about—rather than threatened by—the kingdom of God.

The ideal of a city of peace that welcomes outsiders certainly doesn't show up for the first time in the Gospel of Luke. Way back in Isaiah, the Lord announced that Jerusalem would become like a mother of a newborn, breastfeeding all those who returned to her, carrying them on her hip, playing with them on her knees and offering maternal comfort (66:11-13). In this metaphor, God acts first as a midwife, giving Jerusalem comfort and strength to bear quickly and painlessly all her returning children (66:7-9). Then God acts as a good birth partner, giving refreshing peace like a river. Finally, God gives a fitting push-present of the glory of nations that would stream to Jerusalem (66:12). In the prophet's vision, Jerusalem is truly a city of peace that welcomes and blesses all who come to her (66:18-23).

But in the same prophetic vision, Jerusalem isn't naturally a city of peace. Rather, work continually needs to be done to put away hypocrisy and abuse. In deep continuity with the rest of the book of Isaiah—and, indeed, the prophets more generally—God inveighs against those who would put on public displays of piety while secretly abusing neighbors or engaging in detestable worship (66:3-6). A true city of peace has no place for hypocrisy, violence or empty worship. Instead, new arrivals are welcomed with genuine hospitality. Mechanisms and systems that harm people are intentionally dismantled, and God is worshiped in spirit and in truth, not as humans would like but as God prefers.

The Gospel message is as true today as it was in the disciples' day: The kingdom of God has come close. And, just as in the disciples' day and that of Isaiah, the intimacy of the kingdom will be good news for cities of peace and bad news for those that don't welcome outsiders. What are we, as the body of Christ, doing to make cities of peace?

*Cory Driver is an ELCA missionary serving as the director of graduate studies at the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo (Egypt). His book on wilderness spirituality, *Life Unsettled*, is available from Fortress Press. (LivingLutheran.org)*

Jesus Sends Out Workers



He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 10:1-11 (NIV).

E H O U S E Y H P U R S E V Y
 E D X F G R C H H P P E A C E
 J S A N D A L S U C P E A X C
 H C O N E G Y G N Z R Q Y B U
 T O W N N Z W O R K E R S I C
 M A L X G R E E T N Z Y S Q H
 L P N C H A R V E S T Q U Q X
 O P L Y F W L L L V G H R I G
 N P K E O I P D R I N K I N G
 E F I F N N E U C Q I L I M K
 T A N D E T E L F I A T U Y Z
 B R G Y Z W I O D E A K D E D
 A P D Z L W A F H E C N N A S
 G I O B O W O S U I D Z O Z L
 X R M W A G E S S L Y R M H K

PLENTIFUL	SANDALS	FEW	PEACE	ANYONE
KINGDOM	PURSE	TOWN	GREET	WORKERS
HARVEST	HEAL	HOUSE	DRINKING	SICK
ROAD	EATING	BAG	FIELD	WAGES