

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 4, 2021

THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Pastor: Today, our nation celebrates its place as the land of the free and the home of the brave. At times, this reality causes us to thump our chest to let the world know how great we are. The apostle Paul, too, could claim his place among the greats. Paul was ***“circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ”*** (Philippians 3:5–7). Yet, he was not mightier than the thorn. As Paul followed Jesus, he was plagued by a thorn in the flesh to keep him from becoming conceited. He asked God to take it away, and God said, ***“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness”*** (2 Corinthians 12:9). So, too, God’s grace is sufficient for us no matter where this life takes us, because when we are weak, then we are strong.

PREPARATION

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

“Before You, Lord, We Bow” *LSB 966*

**Before You Lord we bow
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below
Boundless in pow’r and love
Our thanks we bring
In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise
To You our King**

**The nation You have blest
May well Your love declare
From foes and fears at rest
Protected by Your care
For this bright day
For this fair land
Gifts of Your hand
Our thanks we pay**

**May ev’ry mountain height
Each vale and forest green
Shine in Your Word’s pure light
And its rich fruits be seen
May ev’ry tongue
Be tuned to praise
And join to raise
A grateful song**

**Earth hear your Maker's voice
Your great Redeemer own
Believe obey rejoice
And worship Him alone
Cast down your pride
Your sin deplore
And bow before
The Crucified**

**And when in pow'r He comes
Oh may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band
A countless throng
With joy to sing
To heav'n's high King
Salvation's song**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(All are invited to kneel or to be seated)

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Corinthians 10:12–13; Hebrews 4:15–16*

Pastor: Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands
take heed lest he fall. No temptation has
overtaken you that is not common to man.

People: **God is faithful, and He will not let you be
tempted beyond your ability, but with the
temptation He will also provide the way of
escape, that you may be able to endure it.**

Pastor: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

People: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Please be seated or kneel for the confession)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Philippians 1:6; 2:7-8

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: we confess to You our pride, arrogance, and boasting. Forgive us for all our sins in our thoughts, words, and works for the sake of Jesus, who *“made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. For Jesus' sake, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you for all of your sins of thoughts, words, and works in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

(Please Stand)

✠ **WORD** ✠

GLORIA PATRI *(sing)*

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE *(sing)*

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” LSB 651
**I love Your kingdom, Lord
The place of Your abode
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood

Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways
Its sweet communion solemn vows
Its hymns of love and praise

I love Your Church, O God
Your saints in ev'ry land
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand**

**For them my tears shall fall
For them my prayers ascend
For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end
Sure as Your truth shall last
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: (sing) **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Gracious and ever-loving God, we thank and praise You for the freedom we have in You and also the freedom we celebrate today in our nation.**

Pastor: As Your grace has been sufficient for Your people throughout all time, grant that it be sufficient for us as well for Your power is made perfect in our weaknesses;

People: **through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *Ezekiel 2:1-5 ESV*

And he said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’ And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 12:1-10 ESV*

I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man 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. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of

me than he sees in me or hears from me. So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH (sing)

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

People: (sing) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 6:1-13 ESV*

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 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. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff no bread, no bag, no money in their belts but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very

God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven. And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” *LSB* 733

O God our help in ages past

Our hope for years to come

Our shelter from the stormy blast

And our eternal home

**Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure
Sufficient is Thine arm alone
And our defense is sure**

**Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame
From everlasting Thou art God
To endless years the same**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun**

**Time like an ever-rolling stream
Soon bears us all away
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day**

**O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home**

+ SERMON+

“Mightier Than the Thorn”

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Sermon Outline:

1. It's tempting to forget that all we enjoy is by God's grace.
2. Then a thorn will often lead us to despair of His grace.
3. But God promises always to provide a way of escape.

4. It turns out God is gracious even in these struggles.

God's Grace Is Mightier Than the Thorn He Allows.

5. No matter the circumstances, then, He holds us as our gracious Father.

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY LSB pages 192-193

All: (Sung) **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.**

(Please be seated or kneel for the prayer)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God and all people according to their needs.

Almighty and most holy God, we thank and praise You for all You provide us freely by Your grace. We are especially thankful for the freedoms we enjoy and celebrate today as we gather to worship You. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for the leaders of our nation, state, and community. We acknowledge that You have placed them in these positions to govern us and all people of this land. Grant them wisdom and lead them to make decisions that are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Amid the thorns of this life, we lean on Your grace, knowing that it is sufficient for us and in our weakness Your strength shines through. We ask for Your grace and healing for those who grieve, *especially* . . . We ask for Your grace and healing for those struggling in body, mind, and spirit, *especially* . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: We live in a nation and in communities where we are thankful to have brothers and sisters in Christ, yet there are also many who have either disconnected from You and Your Church or who have never known You. Lead us to share Your grace with others. Guide our conversations and grow our relationships with those who do not share the hope we have. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: No matter where life takes us, we know we are in Your hands. So, we confidently come before You as Your children and place these prayers and all our concerns into Your gracious hands, in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

(Please stand)

✠ SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

People: (spoken) **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

People: (spoken) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In the confession of the only true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

(Please stand)

SANCTUS (Sing) LSB 195

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory**

Hosanna

Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is He

Blessed is He

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord

Hosanna,

Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

**All: 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.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (Sung) LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of
the world have mercy upon us**
**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, have mercy upon us**
**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father” *LSB 725*

**Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given**

**God His own doth tend and nourish
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them**

**Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth
And their sorrows all He knoweth**

**Though He giveth or He taketh
God His children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy**

(Please stand at the conclusion of the distribution for the blessing)

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a light to lighten the
Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world with-out end. Amen**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: We thank You, Lord, for You have again fed and nourished us on our way through this world to the one to come. Guide us in living out Your grace until that day when we experience it in all of its fullness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: (spoken) Amen.

HYMN

“God Bless Our Native Land” *LSB 965*

**God Bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.**

**So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies,
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!**

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor
Marie Brown, Organist
Frank Pignanelli, Elder
Laurie Pignanelli, Reader
Bill Switter, Dave Brown & Kathy King, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone, Please

Fill out a yellow attendance card & place it in the offering plate at the back of the church.

Quilting for July

THURSDAY July 1st & Saturday July 17th

VBS DATES

July 10th & August 21st from 10 AM to 2PM

August 21st will include blessings of Pets.

Pre-registrations will be required.

***Need your help with cupcakes and cookies for VBS, also for your prayers and financial support! ***

Attendance

Sunday June 27th 9:30 am 31

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact our Prayer Chain leader, Joan Hafkesbrink, at 313.565.6871. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary

Luke & Amy Hudson – July 6th

Dave & Marie Brown – July 7th

Birthdays

Valerie Mason – July 9th

Robert Schellman – July 10th

For the Shut-Ins

Gladys Hill, at Beaumont Commons

Ken Knick, at home

Dorothy MacTavish, at home

George Morton, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Barbara, Frank Pignanelli's sister, for good test results

Ed Utcai, brother of Paul Utcai, hip replacement

Linda Maseah, sister of Pat Bates, stomach cancer

Amy and friends, and all who are traveling this holiday

Nancy Dajos – in her illness

Gayle French – surgery on the 14th of July

Members of the Lutheran church of Our Saviour, as

they continue to close as a congregation in their

present location, but decide in which

congregation they wish to continue their exercise

of faith.

Family of Joan Dolores Marshall Pelzman, Memorial

service held yesterday in Milford, MI

Rev. Salam & Georgina, safe travels around America &

back to Ghana, West Africa