

# *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

**July 9, 2023**

**9:00 am**

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

## **Announcements**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn ELW #434 "Jesus Shall Reign"**

- 1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.**
- 2. To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head; his name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.**
- 3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song; and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.**
- 4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns; the pris'ners leap to lose their chains, the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.**
- 5. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our king; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.**

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## Prayer of the Day

**You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## *Readings and Psalm*

### **First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

### **Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

### **Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed these things to infants. *Alleluia.* (Matt. 11:25)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Matthew, beginning with the Eleventh chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **Hymn of the Day ELW #777 “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”**

- 1. Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give. If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live.**

*Refrain: Jesus ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.*

- 2. Come to me, all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest. Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest. Refrain**
- 3. Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place. Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face. Refrain**

**4. Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame. Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name. Refrain.**

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## **Apostle's 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. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

**God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things.  
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in  
us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Blessing**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✝ bless, keep,  
and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn ELW #697 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”**

**Refrain: Just a closer walk with the, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

- 1. I am weak but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to the. Refrain:**
- 2. Through this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain:**
- 3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. Refrain:**

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### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

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