7th Sunday After Pentecost July 7, 2024



1812 North Highland AvenueClearwater, Florida 33755Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

727-446-5026 office@GraceCLW.com Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox Welcome! 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.

Some practical things for you to know:

Children: All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

Restrooms are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

Holy Communion: All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

THE ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

We stand as we are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Congregation: Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: God, our provider,

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: 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. **Congregation: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! ELW 634 vs. 1, 3, & 5

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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. **Congregation: Amen.**

We sit.

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.

¹ [A voice] 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.

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

We stand.

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.

² 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. ³ And I know that such a person whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ But 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, ⁷ even 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. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but 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. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The reading is concluded: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark in the 6th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] 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.

After the reading... Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.** *We Sit*

SERMON

We Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Sit

We All Are One in Mission

ELW 576

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends "In your mercy," and we respond "hear our prayer."

OFFERING

We Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Congregation: Amen.**

DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. Congregation: And also with you. Pastor: Lift up your hearts. Congregation: We lift them to the Lord. Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in whichever language is closest to our hearts.

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.	Vater unser im Himmel, Geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme, Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, so auf Erden. Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute; Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, Wie auch wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern. Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen. Denn dein ist das Reich, und die Kraft, und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.
Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo,	nosotros perdonamos
santificado sea tu Nombre;	a los que nos ofenden;
venga a nosotros tu reino;	no nos dejes caer en la tentación,
hágase tu voluntad	y líbranos del mal.
en la tierra como en el cielo.	Porque tuyo es el reino, el Poder,
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;	y la gloria por los siglos de los siglos.
perdona nuestras ofensas, como también	Amén.

We Sit

COMMUNION

After all have receive Communion, we stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Congregation: Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Pastor: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

SENDING SONG Rise Up, O Saints of God! ELW 669

SHARING OF PEACE & DISMISSAL

Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. The peace of the Lord be with you all. **Congregation: And also with you.**

Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Light refreshments are served after the church service. Please come join us for cookies and conversation.

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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



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