

Sunday, July 7, 2013

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

INTRODUCTION

God is the source of our nourishment. Our Lord's invitation to "take and eat ... take and drink" is a repeated one. In the holy eucharist, 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN:

"This is My Song"

887 ELW

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God, we confess our lack of faith. We see a glimpse of what we ought to be and we know we fall short of the goal. We desire faith which is solid and unchanging, yet we crumble under the trials and temptations of life. We want to be strong, but we know our own weaknesses. Our sinful condition strips us of any spiritual gain we humanly devise. God, forgive us. Accept us as we are, unworthy for the task, yet gifted for your purposes. Give us your gift of faith.

Our God is a great God and knows what we need in every area of our life. God knows our weaknesses and our unbelieving hearts. God loves us enough to die on a cross and provide forgiveness for our sin. Today the focus is not on the faith we can muster, but on the great gifts our God gives. God has given us the gift of faith, faith for the moment, faith for every trial, faith for every temptation, faith for every difficult situation. Praise God for this inexpressible gift of faith.

Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 66:1–9

Refrain: All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)

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

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

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth bows down before you,

sings to you, sings out your name." R

Come now and see the works of God,

how awesome are God's deeds toward all people.

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

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

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

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

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.

After 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. He 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. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain 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. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, '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.' Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

HYMN: **“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”** **# 888 ELW**

SERMON

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A time for silent prayer.

Draw near to your family of faith, filling us with your unifying Spirit, that our labors of witness and mission will yield a fruitful harvest. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heal all that has been wasted or depleted in your creation, and inspire in us the commitment to preserve and protect it. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant wisdom to those who govern, strength to those who work for justice, and mercy to all weighed down by conflict and violence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort those struggling with grief and despair, nurture those who are lonely or isolated, and sustain all who are hurting in body or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Enliven our community as we work and pray, break bread and serve. Send us forth with boldness to carry your good news to our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be made.

Guide us on the path that leads to you, until we join your saints in everlasting light, rejoicing that our names are written in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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 into hell.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN: “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” # 890 ELW

GOD'S GRACIOUSNESS

To a world hungry for God's presence and grace, God sends laborers—laborers to proclaim, heal, teach, and care, to work for justice and wholeness among all people. The labors are many and various, but the same Lord enacts them all.

In today's gospel reading, the disciples are charged with a weighty task. Their visit to each new town is a prelude to the arrival of the Lord; not only must they exercise lordly authority over sickness and demons, but their very words can shape the salvation of the town. What terrible responsibility enters the disciples' message-giving when Jesus states, "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me!" (Luke 10:16). Meanwhile, they are sent vulnerable and with little equipment, "like lambs amidst wolves," commanded to rely not on their own resources but on the power of God and on others' hospitality.

Just as the laborers are called to depend on others, to admit that they are helpless on their own, so too we depend on the gracious hospitality of God. Baptism celebrates the story of helpless humanity and God's strong grace, which binds Christians together as family. Holy communion celebrates Christ's very presence in response to our ongoing need. Words of prayer and blessing fill worship services with the reminder that God's Spirit is active in our lives to do what we cannot.

To his disciples, Jesus teaches, "Do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (v. 10). Rejoice today, not in your power or God's power through you; rejoice in God's power *for* you. Rejoice that you are helpless beside the power of your saving God, whose graciousness knows no bounds.

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