



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 4, 2021

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place for Everyone . . .

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The Rev. Linda Hostetter, Interim Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The *congregation*, or participants, *respond* with the lines in **bold type**.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE INTERIM JOURNEY

A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of welcome with Pastor Linda Hostetter whose time as our interim pastor begins.

Leader: Pastor Linda, in the presence of this congregation will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you love, serve and pray for these people of God, nourishing them with the Word and Holy Sacraments and lead them forward during this important time of change?

Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you lead this people of God in giving faithful witness to the world and making known the love of God through loving service among themselves and in this community?

Pastor: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of his Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.

Congregation: Amen.

Leader: I ask all of you, now, people of this congregation, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Pastor Linda, who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a fellow servant of Christ and work with her in the ministry of this congregation?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: Will you pray for her and honor her for her work's sake and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as interim pastor of this congregation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*
(red hymnal #888)

GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

☒ This is the word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 123

☒/☑ *by whole verse*

¹To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.**

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.**

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.

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

☐ This is the word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 6th chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On 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!³Is 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.⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching.⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts;⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.¹¹If 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.”¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

(Silence for a time of reflection)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Battle Hymn of the Republic*
(green hymnal #332)

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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

☒ Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

☒ God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☒ God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☒ God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☒ God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

L God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P 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.

C Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

The elements were given as you entered.

P The body of Christ given for you.

C Amen.

P The blood of Christ shed for you.

C Amen.

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

☐ Let us pray. 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.

☑ Amen.

BLESSING

☐ The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

☑ Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*
(green hymnal #566)

DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☑ Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

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