

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rejoice! God Reigns

July 6 & 7, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Jesus sends out seventy-two people to go ahead of Him, two by two, to every place where He Himself was about to go. We might, at times, wish that we could have been there, to hear a clear directive from Jesus, to be sent on a mission by Jesus, in person. We imagine, then, how strong we would be and how purposeful the mission would be, if Jesus standing right there had told us. Yet, for the seventy-two, tumult lay ahead: "The laborers are few;" "I am sending you as lambs in the midst of wolves;" "Wipe the dust off your feet;" "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!" It was not so easy for the seventy-two. So to those who listen through almost deaf ears, and follow with almost broken bodies, who look through dimmed eyes, to those who have lived amongst the wolves, and not quite made it out of town before being shoved back into that dust, to those Jesus speaks peace through this message of the cross, "Hush now, the reign of God has come near to you."

WELCOME

"They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #830 "Spread the Reign of God the Lord"

Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call To His heav'nly banquet hall.

Tell how God the Father's will Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's grace, Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.

Tell of God the Spirit giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.

Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!

Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all See You light and heed Your call.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Rejoice, for the LORD will extend peace like a river.

People: We rejoice!

Pastor: Rejoice, for the LORD will comfort you.

People: We rejoice!

Pastor: Rejoice, for the hand of the LORD extends to you today in blessing.

People: We rejoice!

Pastor: Rejoice that your names are written in heaven! *Isaiah 66:10-14, adapt.*

People: We rejoice!

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord God, we come into your presence this day with rejoicing. Yet, our hearts are heavy with the burden of our sin. We confess our sin to you, trusting in your promise to forgive us and to guide us by your Spirit to change our sinful ways. Our pride and self-deception,

People: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our ungracious treatment of those caught in a transgression,

People: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our unwillingness to go into the harvest field,

People: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our blindness to the signs of your reign in our midst,

People: we confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace and mercy be upon you now and forever!

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send your messengers to preserve your people in true peace that, by the preaching of your Word, your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 66:10-14 (*Rejoice with Jerusalem*) “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance.” For this is what the LORD says: “I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.” When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to his servants, but his fury will be shown to his foes.

EPISTLE Galatians 6:1-10 (*Bear One Another's Burdens*)

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load. Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 10:1-20 (*Jesus sends out the Seventy-Two*)

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’

If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. “He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

(Be seated)

HYMN #829

“Christ the Eternal Lord”

Stanzas 1-3

Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.

GROUNDWORK GUATEMALA PRESENTATION & MESSAGE

Christ the unfading Light Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright, The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth’s brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing, Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past Your voice from heaven’s throne
Shall call Your children home at last To know as we are known.

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the back page of hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us join our hearts and minds together in prayer, asking our Father in heaven for all things needful for both body and soul.

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #628

“Your Table I Approach”

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #650

“Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling In the holiest realms of light;
Holy Spirit, ever brooding O’er a world of gloom and night;
Holy Spirit, ever raising Those of earth to thrones on high;
Living, life-imparting Spirit, You we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever living As the Church’s very life;
Holy Spirit, ever striving Through us in a ceaseless strife;
Holy Spirit, ever forming In the Church the mind of Christ:
You we praise with endless worship For Your gifts and fruits unpriced.

Continued

Holy Spirit, ever working Through the church's ministry;
Quick'ning, strength'ning, and absolving, Setting captive sinners free;
Holy Spirit, ever binding Age to age and soul to soul
In communion never ending, You we worship and extol.

HYMN #839 "O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear your voice and in your fold with us rejoice.
Fill with the radiance of your grace The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds Some dark delusion haunts and binds.
O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In you find peace and heav'nly rest.
Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'ers to your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart.
That they with us may evermore Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to you be giv'n By all your church in earth and heav'n.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Almighty God, like a mother who comforts her children, who carries them on her hip, and who brings them great joy, so you, in this Holy Communion, comfort us, carry us, and give us joy. With Christ's body and blood, you bind us together in your family, the Church. You forgive our sins, and you give us a foretaste of heavenly joy. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to comfort others in their tumult, to forgive one another, and to demonstrate to the world the joy that comes from you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #827 "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling"

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvest waiting Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me?"

Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty That God's Word so richly yields.

For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace
Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.

Hearken to the Lord whose coming Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest; Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Preacher & Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

Debbie Ulbing, Laurel Privatt, Dan Vaclav

Acolytes

Connor Boinski, Ryan Murray, Carlee Pekrul

Organist (Sunday)

Roger Gottschalk

Music Coordinator & Organist (Saturday)

Kim Woller