

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Measure of Success

July 7 & 8, 2012

AS WE GATHER

A Bible quiz, used with both children and adults, answers the question: "What do these three famous biblical characters---Moses, King David, and St. Paul---have in common?" Could you guess the answer? Well, Moses, King David, and St. Paul were all murderers! (Look it up in Exodus 2:11-12, 2 Samuel 12:7-9, and Acts 7:58-8:1). Because of what these men did, they would not be qualified to serve in any church office today (see 1 Timothy 3:1-13). Instead, God redeemed these men and called them to be a prophet, a king, and an apostle. Look what God can do with three murderers! As it has been suggested, (*Concordia Pulpit Resources*, Dr. David L. Adams) this quiz fits well what could be called this Sunday's theme, "Standard of Success Sunday."

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN # 804

"O Worship the King"

Stanzas 1,2,5,6

(Please rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: **Holy and righteous God, you gave us your commandments as a gift, to show us how we should and should not live in the world and life you have created for us. Yet we consider your commandments as rules that burden and restrict us. At times, we do not confidently believe that your grace is sufficient, and that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Teach us today, dear Lord, that you call the poor, the ill, and the little children great in the kingdom of God. So also, teach us in all things to rely on your Word which is truth. Amen.**

Pastor: If this is our heartfelt confession, then there is good news for us! The heavenly Father sent us His Son Jesus to atone for our sins. In Him, God's kingdom has already come among us! This does not come to us because we confess it, but because God's grace, God's choice, God's intervention in Jesus saves us from our sins. Do you believe this?

People: **I do so believe.**

Pastor: Because of Christ's redemptive work, we are a redeemed and forgiven people. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His

authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. This very forgiveness is God's good news for us today, for tomorrow, for forever.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Blessed Are the Saints of God"

Tune: LSB #397

Blessed are the saints of God; They are bought with Christ's own blood.

They are ransomed from the grave; Life eternal they shall have.

With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.

They are justified by grace; They enjoy the Savior's peace.

All their sins are washed away; They shall stand in God's great day.

With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.

They are lights upon the earth, Children of a heav'nly birth.

One with God, with Jesus one, Glory is in them begun.

With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.

(Text: Joseph Humphreys, b. 1720, text altered by Doug Nicely. Public Domain. Tune: Public Domain.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: **O God, your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of your heavenly treasures; through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 2:1-5 (*Ezekiel's Call*) He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says.' And whether they listen or fail to listen —for they are a rebellious house —they will know that a prophet has been among them.

SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (*Visions and Revelations*) I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my

weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 6:1-13 (*Rejected at Nazareth*) Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #728

"How Firm a Foundation"

SERMON

"God's Grace Is Sufficient"

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

(Please rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of the hymnal*)

(Please 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.

(Please rise)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: Let us pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ and for all who are in need of our Father's care. For our lives of faith, that the Holy Spirit would teach us to find our strength in Christ alone,

People: **that in our weaknesses and frailties, in our struggles and sinfulness, we would find God's grace to be sufficient,**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the ministry of Christ's Church, that the Savior would send out faithful pastors among us as He sent out His apostles,

People: **and that He would open our ears to hear when those pastors speak His Word, and that the Holy Spirit would turn stubborn and rebellious hearts to repentance and faith in Jesus,**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our nation, that we would be thankful for God's blessings and the freedoms we enjoy,

People: **and that He would provide leaders and citizens who work for justice, peace, protection of those who are unborn or aging, and for the good of every citizen of this land,**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our lives as disciples of Christ, that we be granted whatever thorns in the flesh He sees fit to send us to assure us that God's grace is always sufficient for us

People: **and to teach us to be content in the midst of weaknesses, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. We pray for those who mourn especially for Bob who is mourning the loss of his Dorothy, and for Esther's family,**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those whose lives are troubled by sickness, injury, or difficulties, including Donald, Irma, Dennis, Joe, Samuel and Kim,

People: **that the Christ who laid His hands on the sick and healed them would grant faith and relief to all in need,**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all of us who feel the shame and weight of sin, that we might hear the Lord's Word inviting us not to be afraid, and so receive Christ's body and blood to forgive us and empower us for service,

People: **and finding in His embrace everything we shall ever need, evermore prepared to leave all else to follow Him,**

Pastor: let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who rejoice in your abundant blessings including Marty, Gina

Rachel, Dmitry, Doug, Melissa, Erika, Jay, Jack and Gladys, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Please 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 # 618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

"Shine Jesus Shine"

W & R #319

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

*Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness, shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

continued

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

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HYMN # 528 "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 924 "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

Preacher
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender, Jr.
Bob Reynolds, Jane Adams
Kacey Wozniak, Tyler Kroner
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller