SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 7

Extending the Kingdom

AS WE GATHER

In the Readings for today, we see God’s desire to extend His kingdom to all people. In the Old Testament Reading, God says, “Here am I” to a nation that was not Israel. In the Epistle, we see that race, economic status, and gender do not disqualify anyone from being saved by Christ. God’s kingdom is for all people. In the Gospel, Jesus embarks to the country of the Gerasenes and casts out a legion of demons from a man. Jesus frees this demon-possessed man and brings him into His kingdom. As we seek to extend God’s kingdom, we share the Gospel with people from every tribe, nation, and language group. Jesus binds together shattered lives, disarms sin with forgiveness, heals with mercy. It is a call for us to do the same with no partiality!
PRELUDE  “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” I and II  Michael Burkhardt

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN  “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”  LSB 802

INVOCATION

Pastor:  In the name of the Father and of the ✱ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:  Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor:  In this world we are surrounded by enemies,
People:  but Christ sets us free.
Pastor:  Sin has enslaved us all,
People:  but Christ forgives us.
Pastor:  We deserve death for our sinful lives,
People:  but Christ is risen and will raise us as well.
Pastor:  We are vulnerable to the attacks of Satan,
People:  but Christ is present and protects us.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor:  In Eden, our first parents listened to the voice of Satan and disobeyed the voice of God. By their actions they allowed sin and death into world. We have continued in their footsteps, enslaved to sin, bound to die, and all too often captive to the voice of Satan. Let us go before our God and Father, confessing our sins and asking Him for forgiveness. Heavenly Father,
People:  we confess that we are in captivity to sin. We are powerless to overcome death. On our own, we are no match for the power of Satan. For the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Free us from our enemies. Restore our broken relationships with You and with one another.
Pastor:  Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you so that your sins may be forgiven, that death would be destroyed, and that Satan would be defeated. 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.
People: Amen. We are freed from our enemies. We are freed to serve in God’s kingdom.

* WORD *

Kyrie (spoken)

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord” LSB 930
(Verse 1, 4, 6)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the liberator and defender of all people. Free us from the power of sin, death, and Satan, that we may serve You and our neighbors with joy and gladness, for You reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9
(Though God seeks all people, many reject Him.)

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’ All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations—a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping
secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean
meat; who say, ‘Keep away; don’t come near me, for I am too sacred for you!’
Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day.
“See, it stands written before me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I
will pay it back into their laps—both your sins and the sins of your fathers,” says
the Lord. “Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on
the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds.”
This is what the Lord says: “As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes
and men say, ‘Don’t destroy it, there is yet some good in it,’ so will I do in behalf
of my servants; I will not destroy them all. I will bring forth descendants from
Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess my mountains; my chosen
people will inherit them, and there will my servants live.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-4:7
(In Christ we are liberated from the Law and adopted as heirs.)

Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith
should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we
might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the
supervision of the law.

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were
baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew
nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If
you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the
promise.

What I am saying is that as long as an heir is a child, he is no different from a
slave, although he owns the whole estate. He is subject to guardians and
trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were children, we were
in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully
come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those
under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba,
Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God
has made you also an heir.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.
VERSE  Luke 8:39a

Pastor: Alleluia. Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.
People: Alleluia.

(Jesus liberates a man possessed by many demons.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”
“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear.

So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”

So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY  “‘Away from Us!’ the Demon Cried”  LSB 541
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Our gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for this new day. We pray for the dedicated people who serve on the staffs of those who have been elected to serve Your church locally and on a national level. Renew in them a focus and energy for service. Remind them when overwhelmed and discouraged that arm in arm and heart to heart, Your grace is sufficient. Help the leaders now and those who would be elected in July lead with wisdom, guided with compassion, as to encourage the Church to trust the path You have laid out for us. We pray this is Jesus precious name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, lift up all those who are weighed down by the guilt and shame of sin. Release them from their bondage and point them to forgiveness as the feet of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, strengthen all those who are fighting against the power of Satan whether known or unknown. Remind them of Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments. Empower them to resist Satan’s lies with the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, give hope to all those who are isolated and lonely. Bring them into the presence of the loving community of Your Church that they find help and hope among Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Look, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: [Additional intercessions may be added here . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, send Your people to every corner of the earth with Your Gospel message, that all who do not know the saving power of Your Son’s death and resurrection hear the good news of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING 
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” Paul Manz
Robert Estes, trombone

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you. [Colossians 3:1]
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord. [Psalm 136]
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His glorious resurrection has freed all people from sin, death, and Satan, opening to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting Four)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;

Heav’n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;

Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My * body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My * blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting Four)

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“O Savior, Precious Savior”  LSB 527
“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”  Robert Estes, trombone
“Just as I Am, without One Plea”  LSB 570
“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”  LSB 643

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.    
People: Amen.

HYMN “Thy Strong Word”  
Verses 1-2, 4-5  
LSB 578

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Thy Strong Word”  
Paul Manz and Michael Burkhardt
Return home and tell how much God has done for you.’ Luke 8:39
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor Richard Langness

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

ORGAN ASSISTANT
Gwen Geisler

AGAPE
Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER 8:00  Bill Redden
10:00  Don Loptien

LECTOR 8:00  Lorraine Winckler
10:00  Mike Reimnitz

ACOLYTE 8:00  Esther Langness
10:00  Cody Urbach

USHERS 8:00  Larry Nisbet, Members of the Congregation
10:00  Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER 10:00  Kathy Johnson

ALTAR GUILD
Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Judy Peterson, Deb Shiflet

FLOWERS
Steve and Ann Westra and family, in loving memory of Duane Westra & Bob Bennett (1 year ago).

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