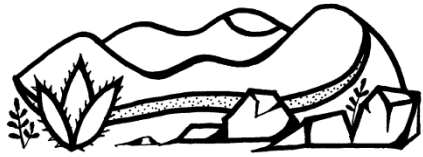



9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021

*Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out*



*without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the “between”: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.*

**Welcome to guests and visitors!** *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly’s parts are indicated by  and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

**About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church:** “It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper and are distributed and received there” (Augsburg Confession, Article X)• “A person who has faith in these words, ‘given for you’ and ‘shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ is really worthy and well prepared.” “Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament” (The Small Catechism, Part VI)• “This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion” (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)•

*Following the introductory verses, a welcome and introduction to the day are made.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

** Amen.**

### SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**☩ Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**☩ we confess**

**that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**☩ Amen.**

### **GATHERING PSALM (48)**

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised;

**☩ in the city of our God, on his holy hill.**

Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion,

**☩ the very center of the world and the city of the great king.**

God is in her citadels;

**☩ He is known to be her sure refuge.**

Behold, the kings of the earth assembled

**☩ and marched forward together.**

They looked and were astounded;

**☩ they retreated and fled in terror.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. 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.**

### KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**☩ Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**☩ Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**☩ Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**☩ Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**☩ Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**☩ And also with you.**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.

**☩ Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5**

The prophet declares: <sup>1</sup>A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.<sup>2</sup>And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The word of the Lord.

**☩ Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 123**

Our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
until he shows us his mercy.

**☩ <sup>1</sup>To you I lift up my eyes,  
to you enthroned in the heavens.**

<sup>2</sup>As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,  
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

**☩ <sup>3</sup>so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
until he shows us his mercy.**

<sup>4</sup>Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

**☩ <sup>5</sup>too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,  
and of the derision of the proud.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

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

The word of the Lord.

**☩ Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;

**☩ let me never be put to shame.**

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

**☩ incline your ear to me and save me.**

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me,

**☩ for you are my rock and my fortress.**

Alleluia. I will boast gladly of my weaknesses,

**☩ so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

**☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

*Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.*

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**☩ And also with you.**

*The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.*

### APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**☞ 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**

*Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy,*

**☞ hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude: All these things and whatever else You see that  
we need, grant us, O God . . . one God, now and forever.*

**☞ Amen.**

#### **OFFERING PRESENTATION**

*Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is  
presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the  
world.*

#### **OFFERTORY**

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,

**☞ and I will give you rest.**

Take my yoke upon you,

**☞ and learn from me;**

For I am gentle and humble in heart,  
**☩ and you will find rest for your souls.**

For my yoke is easy,  
**☩ and my burden is light.**

### OFFERING PRAYER

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☩ Amen.**

*The table is set.*

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**☩ And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**☩ We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

*The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:*

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)

**☩ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. . . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we  
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command . . . .

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**☩ Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**☩ Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**☩ Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)**

**☩ 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.**

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.*

### **BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (34)**

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

**☩ Amen.**

I will bless the Lord at all times;

**☩ His praise shall ever be in my mouth.**

I will glory in the Lord;

**☩ let the humble hear and rejoice.**

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;

**☩ let us exalt his name together.**

I sought the Lord, and he answered me

**☩ and delivered me out of all my terror.**

Look upon him and be radiant,

**☩ and let not your faces be ashamed.**

I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me

**☩ and saved me from all my troubles.**

The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him,

**☩ and he will deliver them.**

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them

**☩ and delivers them from all their troubles.**

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted

**☩ and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,

**☩ and none will be punished who trust in him.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☩ Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Response after the blessing:*

**☞ Amen.**

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.*

## PARYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☞ Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**☞ Thanks be to God.**

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## Dependence Day

Today marks the 245th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the American colonies. Celebrations in the United States will mark the historical claiming of independence, but also will highlight aspects of American national identity such as individualism.

On this day when many in the United States revel in independence, we encounter a gospel story grounded entirely in *dependence*. Jesus does not send out disciples on their own, but rather as pairs. He orders them to take nothing with them except what they are wearing. As they travel from place to place, they will be entirely dependent on the hospitality of those they encounter for food, water, shelter, and other needs that arise along the way.

As they cast out demons and heal people, it is not through their own power, but their dependence on Jesus. Even Jesus has a touch of dependence in this story. The people of Nazareth cannot see past the little boy he was, to the powerful prophet and teacher he has become. This somehow limits the deeds of power he can accomplish among them. The expectations of the town's people seem to get in the way.

The risen Jesus certainly breaks all sorts of expectations, and Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the creed reminds us that it is not by our own power that we come to faith, but that the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1162).

Our gospel for today, alongside Luther's reflection, reminds us that part of the gift of life we have in Christ is community—dependent, loving, compassionate, frustrating, messy, blessed community. We call this community the church, the body of Christ. All its members are gifted, all of them necessary, all of them dependent on one another. In this dependence is strength, joy, and hope. Thanks be to God.

