



Sunday, July 4, 2021
9:15 am

Sixth Week After Pentecost
Genesis 1:27-31a
Psalm
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

A reading from Genesis.

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

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.**

A reading from Second Corinthians.

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. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. 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, 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. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, 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. 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 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! 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. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 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." So

they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Spirit of Gentleness"

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, Let us 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

The response is:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"We Are All One in Mission"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship

Pr. Justin Smoot
Cheryl Allen - Assisting Minister
Al Freiberg - Pianist
Lucy Harvey - Layreader
Kim Plansky - Vocalist

Technical Support

Schwantes Team
Joel Freiberg
Bob Wiederhoeft

Altar Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Mark and Pam Czerwinski in honor of their 46th wedding anniversary and in honor of Pam's parents' 70th anniversary.

Thank you for your offerings and continued support!

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all". For the many ways you give, thank you.

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JULY 4, 2021
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Disciples trust in the power of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 6:1-13	Jesus sends the twelve
Monday	Ezekiel 2:1-5	The Lord chooses Ezekiel
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Paul's vision
Wednesday	2 Peter 1:3-11	The Christian's call to love
Thursday	Luke 9:1-6	The disciples' mission
Friday	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Saturday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But [God] 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.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to trust that through weakness you show power and through our human frailty you do great acts of love and mercy through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you feed us through the work of many hands, help us to be mindful of the kindness of others that blesses us daily. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the power and strength of God bless you with mercy and grace.



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JULY 4, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God of Grace and
God of Glory*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think of a time that you needed the help of someone.
- What is it like to depend on the kindness of others when you need help?
- Jesus sends his disciples out into the world needing the kindness and hospitality of others. How is showing hospitality to others and receiving it ourselves the work of the church?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 6:1-13.

Jesus goes to his hometown and is astonished at the people's lack of trust and belief in him. Because of that, he was only able to use his power to heal a few sick people. The townspeople rejected his authority. Ironically, that same authority is given to his disciples and they are able to go out and do many great deeds of casting out demons and curing the sick. This passage makes at least three important points about discipleship: 1) followers of Jesus will experience the same rejection Jesus did, 2) Jesus' authority is enough to do great things in the reign of God, and 3) disciples go out defenseless, without needing extra provisions and depend on the hospitality and kindness of strangers. The third point is a difficult one for us today. We would rather be the host. However, Jesus calls us to receive the help and kindness of others, especially the stranger who welcomes us in and takes care of us. In our weakness, God's power is revealed. When have you been blessed by being the recipient of the hospitality of others, especially someone you don't know well?

Pray: **Dear God, in human frailty and need your power is made known. Bless us in our relationships with others that your love may be made known through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



It is a valuable gift to host others in your home. However, it is also an important gift to the outreach of the church to accept the hospitality of others. When have you been a guest of another person's hospitality? Did you feel you were the recipient of God's love as you received the hospitality of others? Explain.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalms 123 is a psalm for people making a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem. Identify sacred places in your own pilgrimage or faith journey on earth as a follower of Jesus. Maybe it is a place in your own home, congregation, or the home of a loved one. Talk or think about what you like to do in that sacred space, and give thanks for God's presence in your life. Conclude by praying: **God of glory and might, thank you for revealing yourself to us and for special places that make us feel especially close to you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

JULY 4, 2021
INDEPENDENCE DAY



Freedom to love our neighbor.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day observance.

Sunday	John 8:31-32	Truth will make you free
	Jeremiah 29:4-14	God has a plan
	Psalms 20	A prayer for victory
	Romans 13:1-10	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

*“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. **Romans 13:9b-10 (NRSV)***

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Independence Day:

God of the nations, we thank you for the freedoms we enjoy in this land. Give us courage and strength to use our freedoms not for selfish endeavors but for the good of all, motivated by the love of all, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, thank you for the fish of the seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with plenty of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the grace and strength to love all people and live in peace.



JULY 4, 2021

HYMN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

This Is My Song



INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you were free to do anything you want, what would you want to do?
- What is the difference between independence and freedom?
- How does the commandment teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves bless the world?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Jeremiah 29:4-14.

We are reminded that God has a plan. We may not understand God's plan or know what it may be but the message in this scripture gives us a future with hope. In Romans 13:9-10, the commandments are summed up to love your neighbor as yourself. We are reminded that love does no wrong to our neighbor. Out of this love, we have the freedom to speak up and act to defend the rights and needs of others. What are the needs of others that require support in today's world? How does God's message of a future with hope help us to reach out to people in the world whose freedom is limited?

Pray: **O Lord, be with those in our world who cannot see a future with hope. We pray for those who serve communities and nations to keep others free. Amen.**

SERVICE



We can often take for granted our public servants, those who manage and care for our public life and those who offer safety and protection. What gesture of appreciation can you send to those who serve your community, sometimes with their lives?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In the United States of America, we have been given the freedom to worship. This is something people in other parts of the world do not have. Think or talk about the different religious buildings in your community. Pray for each one and for its people and leaders. Give thanks in prayer for the opportunities you have to freely worship God. End your devotion time with this blessing: **May God bless America, all nations of the world, and you with peace.**

