

7th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 7, 2024

Introduction to the day

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Already king over Judah, the southern kingdom, David here is anointed king over Israel, the northern kingdom, as well. Captured by David, Jerusalem is chosen as the political and religious center for the new combined territory. It is known ever after as “the city of David.”

PSALM: Psalm 48

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, in the city of our God. (Ps. 48:1)

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ’s grace is sufficient for us.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God’s word and relieve affliction.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Sent Out

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus sends the disciples out on their own (in pairs, but without him) to spread his message, and he gives them a packing list: no food, no bag, no money, no extra clothes—only the love and power of Christ, and the good will of the people they would encounter to support them. The disciples must have felt woefully unprepared. And yet Jesus sent them anyway.

As Christians, we may feel unprepared for our journeys. We know that the Lord has sent us out into a broken world to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, but . . . *How do we do that? What do we say? What if people don't want to hear the message? Isn't it impolite to discuss religion?* Surely the disciples shared those concerns. But they went anyway, trusting Jesus. And in trusting Jesus, they found that his message of repentance and salvation was well received. "They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them."

Perhaps this story can serve as inspiration in our own vocations. Although we may not know how to tell others about the love we've found in Jesus, we know that Jesus is supporting us in our meager efforts. We may fear rejection, but Jesus tells us to shake the dust from our feet and carry on. If we worry that we won't get it right, we can remember that the word of God does not return empty. In your baptism, Jesus has called you into his family. In holy communion, he nourishes you for the journey. Throughout your life, he gives you a story to tell others, and the power to share his good news. Take courage, Christian, and go forth in his name. He's got your back!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, your embrace brings wholeness to those who are troubled. Anoint all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal. We especially pray for: Sandra Gagnon, Karen Weigold, Keith Weckwerth, Shirley Glickman, Marilyn Schneider, Denita Wolfram, Stephanie Yourth, Christopher Yourth, Linda Boland, Glenda Panke, Debbie Thom, Donna L Hoffman, Walter Hobden, Harold Yourth and those in long term care facilities and senior residences

In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts those who need your healing touch. (pause) In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society. In your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed. Inspire us by their lives of faith until, with them, we rest forever at our journey's end. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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