

## **4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday, July 6, 2025

### **Introduction to the day**

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14**

A reading from Isaiah.

*Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 66:1-9**

All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name. (Ps. 66:4)

### **SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16**

A reading from Galatians.

*In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."*

### **GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

*Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.*

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE - The Gift of Vulnerability**

A familiar adage says, "It's better to deal with the devil you know than the one you don't know." The idea is that it's safer to deal with something you're familiar with than to take a risk with something new. This new thing can be scary, disarming, even harmful. On the other hand, although it takes work to let go of things that provide security and support self-reliance, vulnerability can also lead to connection, openness, and love.

Jesus asked the seventy disciples to enter the towns ahead of him to proclaim the good news that God's kingdom was coming near, to care for the sick, to stand with the weak and defenseless, and to love the brokenhearted. He knew he was asking them to make themselves vulnerable to the villagers they would encounter on their mission and that they'd likely receive both negative and positive responses. Although they might face rejection, hate, or dismissiveness, they might also be met with care, appreciation, and affirmation.

Gathering around God's table in memory of Jesus' full embodiment of love is also a vulnerable and tender moment together. The gift of free grace we receive in the holy sacrament of bread and wine is worth the risk to stand close to our neighbor. The gift doesn't require perfection, but it allows for a moment to let go of whatever proverbial baggage and deep-rooted brokenness we live with. Jesus meant for all to be fed and

welcomed with gracious hospitality at the table. And when the time comes to leave the gathering spaces, God's hope is that all who gathered feel filled and affirmed so they can go out again into the world of unknowns.

May each one find the courage to embrace the gift of vulnerability as we enter both places of worship and living spaces, remaining in a state of holy wonder about the unknown.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain especially Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Cassie Jessup, Glenda Panke, Barry Rogers, Marilyn Schneider, Danny Schultz, Doug Sell, Debbie Thom, Keith Weckwerth, and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

#### **BLESSING (ELW p. 114)**

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 (ELW p. 115)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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