

## **4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday, June 21, 2026

### **Introduction to the day**

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18**

Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind. (*Ps. 69:16*)

### **SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE - Between Hiding and Exposing**

The desire to make known that which is currently hidden can evoke various responses. When abusive power and fear suppress opposition, or when liberating truth is just under the surface, the desire for uncovering and justice is likely strong. However, when harm or injustice is not an obvious outcome and that which is hidden is perceived to benefit stability or peace, there may be resistance to making the hidden known.

Through a variety of images, the speech in Matthew's gospel calls for the unknown to be revealed and intentions made plain. Our liturgical practice of corporate confession provides an opportunity to acknowledge our relationship with what stays hidden and what we wish to reveal in our own lives. The confession may be discomfiting, but it reminds us of an important dynamic in the life of faith: Just as Jesus tells his disciples not to fear and reassures them of their value, the words of forgiveness in the liturgy orient us toward a God who restores relationships and calls us beloved.

If only the liturgical practice of confession and forgiveness would once and for all set us on the right path and give us permanent assurance! But that would also free us from curiosity about what taking up the cross means in our lives. Once the cross is exposed, we must face our response to it, and it challenges our

allegiances and prods at our vulnerabilities. However, Jesus is clear that the cross also uncovers a path to life. Instead of this path being a lonely, exposing journey, Jesus knows it well and joins us on the way.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering especially Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Shirley Glickman, Donna L. Hoffman, Glenda Panke, Marilyn Schneider, Carolyn Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Doug Sell, Roy Zadow, 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Announcements:**

**Sunday June 21st - Pentecost 4 – Father’s Day**

**9:00 AM** – Grace – Service of the Word

**Grace – Helpers – Greeter:** Brandt Menkhorst

**Reader:** Brian Weckwerth

**10:30 AM** – Bonnechere – Service of the Word

**Monday, June 22nd**

**9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM** - Quilting at Grace

**7:00 PM** – Grace Council

**Tuesday, June 23<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 AM** – Bible Study

**Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 AM to 11:30 AM** – Toy Bus

**Sunday June 28th - Pentecost 5**

**9:00 AM** – Grace – Service of the Word

**Grace – Helpers – Greeter:** Maureen Springer

**Reader:** Victoria Neuman

**10:30 AM** – Bonnechere – Holy Communion

**2:30 PM** – **Grace Cemetery Service** – begins at the cemetery and continues at the church at 3:00 PM.

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following worship

The **July/August/September issue of the Eternity for Today** are here, they are on the table in the narthex.