

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Introduction to the day

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 19:2-8a

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

PSALM: Psalm 100

We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture. (*Ps. 100:2*)

SECOND LESSON: Romans 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35—10:8

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Compassion as Proclamation

When Jesus instructed his followers to "ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers" (Matthew 9:38), his disciples might not have expected that the sending would happen so quickly, or that *they* would be the ones sent. The job of harvest laborers might seem straightforward enough: Recognize the gifts, the fruit, and use them to advance the good news of God's work. But what prompts Jesus to tell the disciples to ask God for laborers is that he sees people who are "harassed and helpless" (v. 36) and is moved to compassion. That movement prompts us to consider that compassion is not merely a feeling that is held, but an energy that reaches out through us to others.

Congregational mission statements and our Sunday liturgy commonly reinforce that the faithful are sent into the world proclaiming the good news of God in Christ. The scriptures stress the importance of connecting oral proclamation with meaningful action, lest proclamation become merely lip service. While proclaiming the gospel might seem broad and difficult to narrow down into our many daily interactions and tasks, the guiding principle of compassion provides a touchpoint.

The disciples' message that God's kingdom has come near is accompanied by actions meant to alleviate suffering. When we gather as a people of faith, we receive God's compassion in Christ that extends through

the Lord's supper and unites us in fellowship. In our prayers we are attentive to personal, local, and broad requests, asking God to receive and keep them in God's care. These acts of worship can prepare us to extend the compassion given to us into our personal conversations and interactions with others. When we ask how we can be led by compassion, we are asking how we can proclaim the good news of God in Christ.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

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

God of freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this coming week, free us also to be a people who proclaim your liberating love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring hope to places devastated by destruction, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine, and sustain those who advocate for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries 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.**

God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of faith, we give thanks for the saints who earnestly seek you. Guide us as we seek to follow those who have led your church. 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 (WOV p. 52)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 (WOV p. 53)

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

Amen

DISMISSAL (WOV p. 53)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Announcements:

Sunday, June 14th – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM – Grace – Service of the Word

Grace – Helpers – Greeter: Ellen Weigold

Reader: Michael Johnson

Monday, June 15th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Grace Quilters

Tuesday, June 16th

Pastor's Day off

10:00 AM – Bible Study

7:00 PM – Property Committee

Wednesday, June 17th

9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Cuddles and Hugs Quilting

Thursday, June 18th

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus

10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Saturday, June 20th

1:00 PM – Graveside Service for Barbara Ferguson
Augsburg Cemetery

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