

July 4, 2021



Introduction

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.

REGATHERING RITE

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who upholds us through adversity, who consoles us in our sorrows, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah 54:10:

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

A prayer of lament

We lament before you, O God, Comforter in our distress,
the losses that *our congregation / this community* has suffered.
We have missed our weekly assembled worship,
our sharing of bread and cup, our communal song, our greetings of peace;
the full observances of Holy Week, the Three Days, Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity;
baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals;
gatherings for education; coffee hours;
the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted each Sunday,
Other laments of the local community may be added.
and we mourn members, friends, and family who have died of COVID-19.
O God, we lament our losses, for they are many.
Restore us, gracious God. **Restore us, gracious God.**

We lament before you, O God, Sustainer of the universe, the tragedies that our world has experienced. We lament the millions sickened; the countless dead;
thousands unemployed; medical systems depleted;
economic security threatened; government assistance inadequate;
political discord escalated; despondency rampant;
racial injustice intensified; communal engagements canceled. . .
Other laments of the world may be added.
O God, we lament the world's tragedies, for they are incalculable.
Heal us, compassionate God. **Heal us, compassionate God.**

Yet today, O God of the everlasting arms,
we rejoice at this re-gathering of our congregation:
we praise you for Sunday worship in word and sacrament;
for the personal presence of our pastor and other ministers;
for infants, children, youth, adults, and the aged together;
for communal song and live music; for coffee hours;
for Bible study; for service with one another for the wider community;
for the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted on Sundays and weekdays . . .
Other praises of the local community may be added.
O God, we rejoice at this re-gathering for baptismal life together.
Empower our church, faithful God. **Empower our church, faithful God.**

And we pray, O God of safe harbor, for the emergence of a wholesome world:
 with health restored; mourners consoled;
 vaccines available; hospitals restocked;
 employment reinstated; poverty averted;
 sustenance shared; science respected;
 travel resumed; fear replaced with confidence;
 sorrow turned to joy . . .

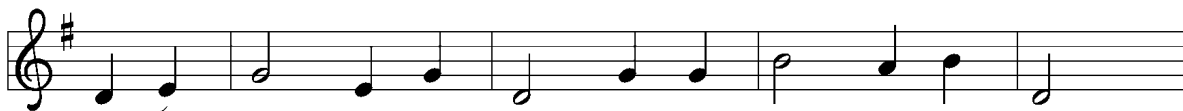
Other praises of the world may be added.

O God, we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world.
 Renew the whole world, merciful God. **Renew the whole world, merciful God.**
 Give us your peace, eternal God. **Give us your peace, eternal God.**

The people bow to one another, greeting each other without touch.

The service continues with Confession and Forgiveness

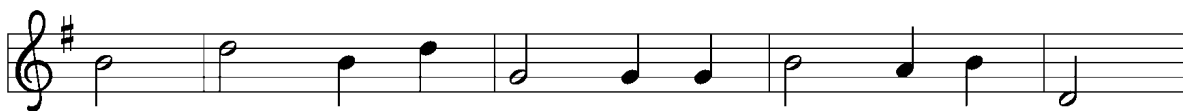
Opening Hymn ELW 796 – How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand?"
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Prayer of the Day

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: Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Psalm: Psalm 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned ¹ 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.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I 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. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But 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, ⁷even 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. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but 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. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-13

¹[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On 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! ³Is 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. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If 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.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Hymn of the Day ELW 579 – Lord You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:

Refrain



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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General Order of Blessing

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we gather to *dedicate* these refinished floors, painted walls, and new webcam to the praise and glory of God.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth, of things seen and unseen.

You stretched out the heavens like a tent;

you divided the day from the night;

you appointed times and seasons for work and rest,

for tearing down and building up.

You blessed your people through all generations and guided them in life and death:

Abraham and Sarah; Moses and Miriam; Isaiah and all the prophets;

Mary, mother of our Lord; Peter, James, John, and all the apostles;

and all the saints and witnesses in your church of ages past,

in whom your Spirit spoke and moved.

We give you thanks, O God,

as we *dedicate* these refinished floors, newly painted walls, and our MEVO webcam to your glory and praise.

Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things,

give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom;

through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

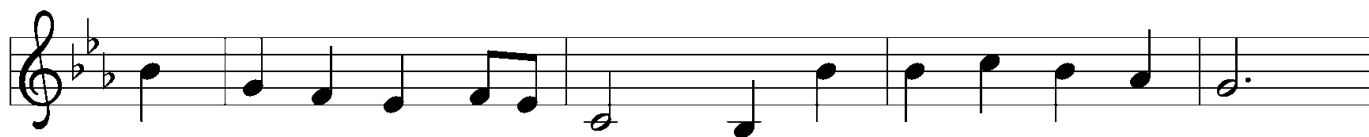
THIS WEEK AT PiC

Tuesday – Men's Bible study 6:30pm – Zoom and in person

Wednesday – Morning Prayer 10am – FaceBook Live

Thursday – Women's Bible study 6:30pm - Zoom

Sending Hymn ELW 576 – We All are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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