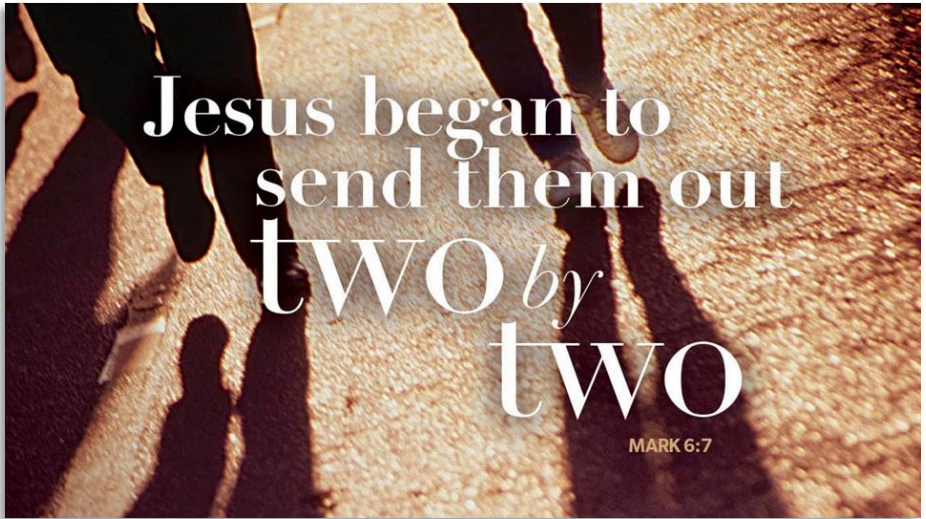




## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 7, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church  
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Great Falls, MT 59404  
406-761-1543

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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.*

*As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.*

## **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.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING SONG**

*ELW 513 Listen, God is Calling (1,3)*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,

there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

*Chicago Folk Mercy On This Fallen World*

*R. Have mercy on this fallen world. Have mercy on us. Have mercy on this fallen world, mercy Lord have mercy on us..*

*1. For all of the days that have fallen apart, have mercy.  
For every life, for every heart, have mercy.  
For all those who hunger each day, have mercy.  
For all of the times that we turn away. R.*

*2. For all who have fears that come with the night, have mercy.  
For all those who need to be held in the light, have mercy.  
For all of creation through famine or feast, have mercy.  
For all of the world to live in your peace.R.*

## **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: EZEKIEL 2:1-5**

*In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He 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. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 123**

To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

**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.

**Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt,**

too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,  
and of the derision of the proud.

## **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.*

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Chicago Folk LH 102*

***Sing praise to the Lord, all the earth! Alleluia, Alleluia!***

***Play music to praise God's name. Alleluia, Alleluia!***

The holy gospel according to Mark the sixth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **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.*

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

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the

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

The gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON**

Rev. Steve Nelson

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*W&P 18      Bind Us Together*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*Chicago Road Create In Me LH 106*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your spirit free. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,  
**you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.**  
**Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.**  
**Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Chicago Folk LH 107 Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of Hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord most high. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosannah in the highest..*

# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## Invitation to Communion

*The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Chicago Folk LH 109*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,  
give us your peace.*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*ELW 461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

*BOB 243 You Are My All In All*

*LH 219 One Bread, One Body*

## COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,  
**we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.**  
**As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.**  
**In your name we pray. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*ELW 538     The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

## SERVING TODAY

<b>Accompanist</b>	Lynn Ryan, piano;
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Mark Kohoutek
<b>Usher</b>	Sandy Pepos
<b>Tech</b>	Gabe Smith
<b>Projection</b>	TBD
<b>Children's Church</b>	TBD and TBD
<b>Hospitality</b>	TBD
<b>Counters</b>	TBD

**Flowers are given by**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

We welcome and thank **Pastor Steve Nelson**, for preaching and presiding in worship this morning.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Tuesday 7/9**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

### **Thursday 7/11**

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 6:30 pm

### **Friday 7/12**

- Bethel office is closed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 7/14**

- Worship service led by Jim Carlson, LPA in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- World Hunger Sunday

### **Monday 7/15**

- Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 1:00 pm

### **Tuesday 7/16**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Council meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

### **Friday 7/19**

- Bethel office is closed.

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