

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries... and for our local agencies that care for those in need. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with gratitude the prophets and saints who spoke your truth to move us towards true freedom... who strove for liberty for all. Uphold us all with your all-sufficient grace until you gather us to yourself. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

SONG OF PRAISE "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" #579
(vs. 1-2, 5)

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

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

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

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6th Sunday after Pentecost / Pentecost 6B – July 4, 2021

THE 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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE "We All are One in Mission" #576

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.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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 123 –

¹To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

²As 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,

⁴too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

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.

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kathy Houzner

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the heavens, your creating and life-giving Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Guide us live in wisdom and faithfulness, to cherish the gifts we have been given... to play our part in making this world a place of peace and equity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring comfort and wholeness to those in need (*especially the family / friends of Helen Meske; Jamie, Lisa, Jerry, Sue, Jenny, Cheri, Earle, Harry, Bev, Marge, Howard, Howard Jr., Ruth, Angela, Sue, Jean Anne, Melissa, Kendra, Kathy, Laurie, Mark, Rita, Loretta, and those we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*) Surround them with your unwavering presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**