

Order of Worship for July 6, 2025

Prelude:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: “Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying” - Hymn #826

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit to a yoke of slavery; do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence.

C: If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have used our freedom only to fulfill our selfish desires. We have gone back to trusting in the idols of this world; power, wealth, success. We have too often been of the world, instead of just in it. We have forgotten that our true citizenship is in heaven. Forgive us.

P: According to the will of God our Father, Jesus Christ gave Himself for our sins to set us free. In His name and by His authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm:

P: The heavens declare the glory of God,

C: and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

P: Day to day pours out speech,

C: and night to night reveals knowledge.

P: Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

C: In them He has set a tent for the sun,

P: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

C: and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

P: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

C: and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: The heavens declare the glory of God,

C: and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise: “Glory to God” - Hymn #946

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 66:10-14

R: "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance." For this is what the LORD says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, but his fury will be shown to His foes.

R: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Lesson: Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18

R: Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

R: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 10:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 10th chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord

P: After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

"Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.

"He who listens to you listens to Me; He who rejects you rejects Me; but he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name." Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn: *"Lord, Whose Love from Humble Service"* – **Hymn # 848**

Sermon: *"Strength for the Weary"* - **Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18**

The recliner easy chair—it becomes so desirable in our culture where we have climate-controlled houses, all kinds of electronic entertainment (cell phones work great while sitting in such a chair), and our own private homes sealed off from the rest of the world. It makes it very easy for us to grow weary of doing anything.

But even for people in Paul's day who lived with much less privacy, had no electronic devices, and had nothing like an easy chair it was easy for people, as he said, "to grow weary in doing good." It takes effort to help other people. There is only so much we can do. And it can seem to do no good. Last month we heard about visiting people in nursing homes during Sunday Bible class as Ruth-Ann Grabau, a deaconess intern working at Perry Lutheran Homes,

told us about how we can reach out to the elderly. It can be a challenge because unlike working with children who gradually learn and pick up things from us, the elderly decline and get worse. What frustrates us about them—their lack of hearing, their forgetfulness, their lack of attention only gets worse.

Yet there are other things that can very much weary us in our efforts to help others. Psychologists have done studies in the area of “altruism”—that’s the fancy word for doing good things for others. In the so-called “Public Goods Game.” Groups of four were given so many tokens to represent money. In the course of the game they could each invest money in the whole group. In the end 40% of the earnings were given to each of the participants. As expected, the stingy ones who contributed the least, were rejected by the group. But surprisingly, almost as much as those who were most generous. Somehow, selfishness and selflessness were considered to be morally equivalent.

This seems to come from an early age to people. Today young people use the word “glazing” to describe what people used to call brown nosing.” The idea is that you act and do good just to gain the favor of adults. “Glazing” can be harmless, like simply to poke fun at someone for obsessing over their favorite celebrity. But it can also cross into mean-spirited territory, like being used to mock someone for being kind and respectful. Phrases like "good boy" or "good girl" are also being tossed around to mock peers when carrying out simple, everyday tasks. The popularity of these phrases might hint at a cultural shift—those who were kind, courteous, and helpful once earned a social credit, but now are stereotyped as people-pleasers and too well-trained.

That can make it hard for us to do good. There is the fear that in trying to help we might be perceived as a “goody-too-shoes,” some to “mind your own business,” or someone with ulterior motives. And there is the fear that the “Good Samaritan” clause won’t apply to us so that it is better to do nothing than to risk hurting someone else even if our intentions are good.

I am reminded of the worship service written here years ago by Pastor Richard Kapfer describing the example of service that Jesus gave on the night before He died by washing the feet of the disciples. Let us repeat it now:

P: We confess to You, Lord Jesus, that we are afraid to be servants of one another.

C: How will it look, getting up from the table, taking a basin of water and a towel, and washing the feet of the disciples? Won’t they come to expect it?

P: While they move ahead in the Kingdom. I’ll remain the taken-for-granted foot washer.

C: How will it look, getting up from my comfortable routine and helping him/her? Will they understand that I can only help them this once? Won’t they take me for granted as they always have?

P: We’re afraid to be servants, Lord. We’ve tried it occasionally in the past, and we remember—the surprise on some faces: “You, a foot washer?” . . .the questioning look on others: “You’re washing my feet?” . . . the haughty look on others: “Oh, yes, you the foot washer.”

C: We’re afraid of that, Lord. And we’re afraid of the effect-what it will cost us:

P: In self-respect, in time, in losing our place, in losing out, in losing. How will it look, Lord?

No wonder we can grow weary in doing good!

So wouldn't it be great to get some encouragement? The studies show that when things are done anonymously there is much less chance that people will see ulterior motives. But then how do we know they are helping? Oscar Wilde put it this way: "The nicest feeling in the world is to do a good deed anonymously – and have somebody find out." But what if no one does?

St. Paul tells us:

A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

He connects the reward with the Holy Spirit who gives eternal life and reaping the harvest at the proper time. No one else may know what we have done. In the larger scheme of things, we are forgotten. We have this church to gather us together. Do any of us know about the people who founded this place? But God does!

Paul says, "For at the proper time we will reap a harvest." What is "the proper time"? It is the time set by God, just as a harvest is not determined by what people think or do, but by how the crops created and sustained by God ripen for harvest. Behind what we do is the Holy Spirit. Of the Spirit Paul says, "From the Spirit will reap eternal life." Even if no human is left on this earth, no documentation, no picture to reflect on what we have done, God knows. He will make that harvest come true. It might be something we see in our lives now. But even if not, it will be reaped in heaven.

Not only will our good deeds done anonymously be made aware by God in heaven, He will also show the good deeds He has done through us which we are not even aware of. We will be rewarded by what brings God greatest happiness—seeing people respond to His love! That will be no momentary joy which will fade with time. No, "the Spirit will reap eternal life." That is what we can share with each other. That is how we carry one another's burdens. That is how we can "do good to all people."

Confession of Faith: (from the explanation to the Ten Commandments)

ALL: We should fear and love in God that we honor our parents and other masters, serve and obey them, love and cherish them; help and support our neighbors in every physical need; lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other; help our neighbors to improve and protect their possessions and income; defend our neighbors, speak well of them, and explain everything in the kindest way; help and be of service to our neighbors in keeping their inheritance or house; and urge our neighbors' spouses or workers to stay and do their duty.

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Offering/Voluntary:**Service of the Sacrament****Invitation to Communion:**

P: Christ Jesus sent His disciples out to proclaim the coming of His Kingdom. His Kingdom continues to come as He comes to people through His body, the Church. In this Church He offers Himself, His true body and blood, for the forgiveness of sins. He invites us to gather by His altar and receive this holy supper trusting in His promises. We join now in the Holy Communion.

The Words of our Lord:**Lord's Prayer:****Distribution Hymns:**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" - **Hymn #649**

"Before You, Lord, We Bow" - **Hymn # 966**

Dismissal (Pastor)**Prayer after Communion:**

P: God of glory, Father of love, peace comes from You alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to Your Kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in Your promises of salvation, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing: (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "God Bless Our Native Land" - Hymn # 965**Postlude:**