

OUR FAITH STANDS STRONG

INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 4, 2021



Sunday July 4, 2021

Communion in place

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost—Independence Day

Prelude

Welcome

While it isn't entirely clear why the people of Nazareth reject Jesus, the fact that they do may sound familiar to us. How often do we find exactly what we expect when we encounter something new? How open are we, really, to the possibility that God's power might come from an unexpected corner? On this day as we celebrate our independence may we be open to hear words of freedom from new prophets who are rising in our land.

Prayer

Call to Worship:

This is the day the Lord has made,

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from you.

Bless us as we hear your word.

Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Time for 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 go?

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.
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. Amen

Song: The Right Hand of God

- 1 The right hand of God is writing in our land,
writing with power and with love,
our conflicts and our fears,
our triumphs and our tears
are recorded by the right hand of God.
- 2 The right hand of God is pointing in our
land,
pointing the way we must go,
so clouded is the way,
so easily we stray,
but we're guided by the right hand of God.
- 3 The right hand of God is striking in our land,
striking out at envy, hate, and greed.
Our selfishness and lust,
our pride and deeds unjust
are destroyed by the right hand of God.
- 4 The right hand of God is healing in our land,
healing broken bodies, minds, and souls,
so wondrous is its touch
with love that means so much,
when we're healed by the right hand of
God.

Text: Patrick Prescod
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May 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.

Prayer of the day: Let us pray, O 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.**

The Word

Children's Moment

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 123

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

Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

**Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,
Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!**

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.

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

Gospel Greeting: (sing it out!)

**Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia,
Al-le-lu--ia, Al-le--lu--ia!**

Message

Song: God's Work, Our Hands

1 God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

2 God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

3 God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your
name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

4 God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the
rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 Peace

Announcements

--It's favorite hymn season!

--Non-perishable food drive to support the pantry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Edith Stein.

--Thirsty Thursday: Pictures to prandall22@gmail.com. Theme: "We are Called to Witness!"

Offering Prayer

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come in prayer before God who is one and who is three, and yet only one.

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 Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and our own 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 you 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. 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 wholeness to those in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries, for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and its volunteers, for those who use and serve at MainSpring House, for the AA groups that meet in our building. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

We, who are many, are one body, as we share this one bread.
The gifts of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

(We share in communion in place, during the meditation hymn)

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

Prayer after Communion:

Jesus, Bread of Life,

We have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

As you have fed us in this meal,

Now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray, Amen

Blessing:

May the blessing of God,

who provides for us, who feeds us, and who is with us wherever we go, be upon you, now and forever. **Amen!**

Song: My Country, 'Tis of Thee

- 1 My country, 'tis of thee,
sweet land of liberty,
of thee I sing:
land where my fathers died,
land of the pilgrims' pride,
from ev'ry mountainside
let freedom ring.
- 2 My native country, thee,
land of the noble free,
thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills
like that above.
- 3 Let music swell the breeze,
and ring from all the trees
sweet freedom's song;
let mortal tongues awake;
let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break,
the sound prolong.
- 4 Our fathers' God, to thee,
author of liberty,
to thee we sing:
long may our land be bright
with freedom's holy light.
Protect us by thy might,
great God, our king.

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1808-1895

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you for joining us!

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