

July 7, 2024, 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Pastor Tom Olson, Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Jan Ellingson (Fugleberg)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 123

PASTOR: I lift up my eyes to you

ALL: To you whose throne is in heaven

PASTOR: As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master

ALL: As the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress

PASTOR: So our eyes look to the LORD our God,

ALL: Till he shows us his mercy

PASTOR: Have mercy on us

ALL: O LORD, have mercy on us

HYMN #631 “My Country! ‘Tis of Thee”

PRAYER FOR AMERICA: Father in heaven. We pray for our nation. Forgive us of our many sins. Help us to live righteous and honorable lives. Please guide our leaders to make wise decisions, to be honest and free from the love of money and power. Draw all of our land back to a living relationship with you and a love to do your will. Help our land to be a light and example to the world. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

CHILDREN’S SERMON:

Reader: Jacob O’Flanagan (In place of Justo Pillman)

EPISTLE LESSON: *2 Corinthians 12:1-10*

12:1 I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know-God knows. 3 And I know that this man-whether in

the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows- 4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. 5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. 6 Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say. 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

GOSPEL LESSON: *Mark 6:1-12 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. 7 Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. 8 These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff-no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. 9 Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. 10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. 11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake*

the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." 12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father, And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen

GLORIA PATRI: **Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

BAPTISM: Rosie Ruth Bilgrien, daughter of Eric and Maren Bilgrien

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER

PRAISE SONGS PICKED BY JAN (Perhaps reflecting Independence Day and Patriotic but it doesn't have to be.)

SERMON TITLE: "A HARD JOB"

Ezekiel 2:1-8; Pastor Tom Olson; July 7, 2024 *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

I. DIFFICULT PEOPLE

Ezekiel 2:1-4a He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." 2 As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. 3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. 4 The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn.

II. CONDEMNING WORDS

Ezekiel 2:4b Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' 5 And whether they listen or fail to listen-for they are a rebellious house-they will know that a prophet has been among them.

III. SUPERNATURAL COURAGE

Ezekiel 2:6-8 And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. 7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious. 8 But you, son of man,

listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

May the peace of God that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Messiah Jesus. Amen

HYMN #472 "Am I a Soldier of the Cross"

HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer prep and help)

CHORAL BENEDICTION: *May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever-- Grant you peace, Perfect peace, Strength in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see His face, Feel His grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.*

POSTLUDE: Jan Ellingson