

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 7, 2024**



Thought: Jesus' way is a narrow way that not everyone wants to walk. He warned his disciples that they might face rejection. He was, they were, we are sometimes fated to be "prophets without honor." Or, going home often has "pre-sets" that lower expectations.

Being a Christian a truth teller in the name of Jesus means learning to make proper distinctions between our ways and God's way, our truths and God's truth.

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

L: May peace of Christ rule your heart and life each day. Peace be with you!

C: **And also with you.**



Prayer for the Fourth of July just past:

L: Loving God. We greet this Fourth of July with grateful hearts as we call to mind the vision of freedom and justice for all upon which our country was built. We give thanks for those who imagined this vision.

C: Lord, today and always bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for our freedom. With favor and bounty, meet their needs and watch over their families. For all the sacrifices others have made to build and defend this country, we are grateful. Amen.

Gathering Hymn – “This Is My Song”

ELW #887

<https://youtu.be/M-zsFOa-IQ4>

First-Plymouth Church

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Assurance

P: Holy God, your truth challenges us to see the reality of who we are in our sinfulness. Our thoughts are not your thoughts, nor our ways your ways.

C: We adapt too easily to the broad way of the world rather than the narrow way of Christ. We easily lose the perspective of Jesus, go along with the world, and worship at the wrong throne! You call us to be salt and leaven, to speak and live the gospel we confess; but we are reluctant, self-protective witnesses. Forgive, O God, our failure, to be your courageous, truth-telling and truth-living people. Amen.

P: God will abundantly pardon. This truth has become reality for us in Jesus. We can trust it, and begin again to live in accord with God's will and purpose.

C: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise – “The Church's One Foundation”
ELW #654 Vss. 1&2

<https://youtu.be/w1YBYrJ8Hzg>
Martijn De Groot

Prayer of the Day

L: God of the Covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of our kingdom.

C: 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.

Preparing for the Word

L: Jesus came to his hometown. His teaching astounded everyone.

C: Where did he learn these things?

L: He claims to be more than we know him to be.

C: Why do we question leaders who are familiar to us?

L: Jesus sent the Twelve out in pairs. Rely on God for today's needs.

C: God calls us to new ministries today.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Ezekiel 2:1-5

The call of Ezekiel

¹ [A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³ 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. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God."⁵ Whether 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

Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy.

¹ To 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. R

³ Have mercy upon us, O | Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough | of contempt,
⁴ too much of the scorn of the in- | dolent rich,
and of the derision | of the proud. R

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

God's power made perfect in weakness.

² 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. ³ And I know that such a person—whether
in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴ was
caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told,
that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I
will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my
weaknesses. ⁶ 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, ⁷ 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. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about
this, that it would leave me, ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Holy Gospel – Mark 6:1-13

Going home and going out.

<https://youtu.be/y1vKYvVX0Rg?si=QdfTO6FKXF4HJtW>

¹ [Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.² 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! ³ 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. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ 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.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/JwAumR0IXzY?si=ZOIUk0h0xy5vlfvM>

Message – “The Rest of the Story”

<https://youtu.be/n36GHrUYiC0?si=2flqIErjmtAjetAu>

Hymn of the Day – “O Word of God Incarnate”

ELW #514

<https://youtu.be/mRpN6E2Hjcs>

James Biery

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

Prayers of the Church

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

Glorious God, you bend down to wash the feet of your disciples. Let the servant church arise in our teaching, our praying, our healing, and our doing. Make all your faithful people powerful in weakness and strong in grace. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, your fingers trace the heavens and your hands mold the earth. Where there is drought, bring nourishing rain. Where there is devastation from fire or flood, bring relief. Sustain the well-being of every living thing. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you speak and the nations listen. Open those who govern to the cries of all who journey with no food or shelter, particularly people fleeing violence, those seeking freedom, and those in search of community. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, your embrace brings wholeness to those who are troubled. Anoint (*names and*) all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Welcoming God, in your presence strangers become companions and enemies become neighbors. Open our doors to those we have so easily shut out, particularly people who are different from us or who are marginalized by church or society. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, you gather us into your house of many dwelling places. We give you thanks for our faithful departed (*especially*). Inspire us by their lives of faith until, with them, we rest forever at our journey's end. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one

who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

**Offering/Offertory Music – “We Come to the Hungry Feast”
ELW #479**

Offertory Prayer

L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.

C: Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: The people of Nazareth rejected you, O Christ –
C: “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary...”

L: Let us not be blinded by the humble trappings of this meal.

C: For in it we find you, O Christ, in our midst.

L: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW #543

<https://youtu.be/Kd-FANyN1VU>

First-Plymouth Church

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Jill Rimington

