

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service.
Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on “silent” during the service.



*We are committed to invite and welcome all to Jesus Christ,
to equip all with an active faith that works in real life,
and together go into the world to serve in Jesus' name.*

Please stand

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

-Francis Scott Key

O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
o'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when free men shall stand
between their loved homes and the war's desolation!

Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,
and this be our motto, "In God is our trust."

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

CONFSSION and FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN 893 "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:1-5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. 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. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

R: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

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

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the sixth chapter of Mark.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 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! 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. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 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.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN 575 “In Christ Called to Baptize”

SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy.....

...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

A musical score for a single melodic line. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth note patterns. The lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might" are written below the notes.

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san-na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 888 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

JULY 4, 2021
INDEPENDENCE DAY

taking⁺
faith
home

Freedom to love our neighbor.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Independence Day observance.

Sunday	John 8:31-32	Truth will make you free
	Jeremiah 29:4-14	God has a plan
	Psalm 20	A prayer for victory
	Romans 13:1-10	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:9b-10 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Independence Day:

God of the nations, we thank you for the freedoms we enjoy in this land. Give us courage and strength to use our freedoms not for selfish endeavors but for the good of all, motivated by the love of all, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, thank you for the fish of the seas, for fruited plains, for amber waves of grain, and for all the ways you have blessed this country with plenty of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God give you the grace and strength to love all people and live in peace.

JULY 4, 2021

HYMN FOR

INDEPENDENCE DAY

This Is My Song

taking⁺ faith home

INDEPENDENCE DAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you were free to do anything you want, what would you want to do?
- What is the difference between independence and freedom?
- How does the commandment teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves bless the world?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Jeremiah 29:4-14.

We are reminded that God has a plan. We may not understand God's plan or know what it may be but the message in this scripture gives us a future with hope. In Romans 13:9-10, the commandments are summed up to love your neighbor as yourself. We are reminded that love does no wrong to our neighbor. Out of this love, we have the freedom to speak up and act to defend the rights and needs of others. What are the needs of others that require support in today's world? How does God's message of a future with hope help us to reach out to people in the world whose freedom is limited?

Pray: O Lord, be with those in our world who cannot see a future with hope. We pray for those who serve communities and nations to keep others free. Amen.

SERVICE



We can often take for granted our public servants, those who manage and care for our public life and those who offer safety and protection. What gesture of appreciation can you send to those who serve your community, sometimes with their lives?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In the United States of America, we have been given the freedom to worship. This is something people in other parts of the world do not have. Think or talk about the different religious buildings in your community. Pray for each one and for its people and leaders. Give thanks in prayer for the opportunities you have to freely worship God. End your devotion time with this blessing: **May God bless America, all nations of the world, and you with peace.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



FINISHING COMMUNION AT HOME AFTER CHURCH

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grove City OH

For your safety and comfort, we are distributing pre-packaged communion kits to members during worship for everyone to take home, rather than eating and drinking in the church building.

The bread and wine will be consecrated with the Words of Jesus during worship, and will be ready to consume afterwards. However, since it is important to have the words of Jesus fresh in our ears before taking the sacrament, we strongly encourage you to use the following order of service once you get home.

First, unpeel the wafer(s) from the top of the package. Next, unseal the juice and place the wafer and juice before you on a table, so they are ready to be consumed.

Then, say the following aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Now, partake of the wine and bread, trusting that the resurrected Lord Jesus is truly present in the sacrament **for you**, giving you the fullness of his forgiveness, life, and salvation.

After eating and drinking, we suggest saying the following prayer aloud (or have someone in your group say it for everyone): *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy, you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love for one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 4, 2021

“...and began to send them out two by two...” (Mark 6:7)

Jesus, after getting resistance to his ministry and message in his hometown of Nazareth, regroups and sends out his twelve disciples to preach the good news and to represent him out in the greater world. Jesus sending out these twelve confused men is surprising, because the disciples show they aren't necessarily the sharpest knives in the drawer. Yet, Jesus sends them out to do his work.

The hometown boy, Jesus, is dismissed as being “only” a carpenter from a town where nothing good comes out of it. The crowd listens to him and witnesses his miracles, but they respond with, “Where did this man get these things?” Interestingly, Jesus responds to the crowds' questions about him and his work by pairing up and sending out the Twelve Disciples. These are the ones who “followed him” (6:1). Those who follow are now being sent. It's rather amazing that these disciples, who have shown they are quite confused and really don't understand him, are now sent by Jesus to do some of the same ministry he did. Jesus gives them the same power that he himself wielded.

The Twelve are sent out with little instruction with no bag or change of clothes, and are to live as beggars relying on the goodness of strangers. They perform exorcisms and cure the sick. Yet these good works do not stop the opposition that thwarts them along their journeys. It was best just to shake the dust off and move on. Followers of Jesus do good work and suffer rejection, just like Jesus did.

But Jesus isn't surprised by all this. He responds to their rejection by sending out his empty-pocketed, poorly prepared, and misunderstanding disciples to do what he wants done. His intentions for the world will not be hindered or stopped by human or demonic forces, even if he has to send out some below average followers to do his work for him. He sends out the unlikeliest of people, that is, people like us. Though we don't understand everything about Jesus, and are maybe confused about what we do know, it is the nature of Jesus to work through ordinary people like us, to send out his disciples to take his good news to the streets. What is Jesus' plan for bringing the world back to himself? He sends US! **Amen.**