



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – Our culture is fascinated with rebels. Characters such as Han Solo, Ferris Bueller, and Katniss Everdeen are not perfect, but we admire how they stand up to authority. Whether being a rebel is good or bad depends on whom one is rebelling against. When the authority is God Almighty, rebels are not looked upon so fondly. Israel rebelled against God, and Ezekiel told them just that. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus, rebelling against their own hometown prophet. Paul was a rebel himself, first against the followers of Jesus, and then on their behalf. Sin is rebellion against God. Yet God forgives our rebellion through Jesus’ death and resurrection, turning our rebellion into reconciliation and rejoicing. Despite our weaknesses and inclination to rebel, God’s grace comes to us in Jesus, and He is sufficient for us.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences

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

C Amen.

P Lift up your eyes to the Lord!

C For He is filled with mercy.

P Plead with Him for what you need.

C For He is filled with power.

P Be content with His ways.

C For His grace is sufficient.

Lord Have Mercy

Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken;
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim;
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom;
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again.

**CHORUS: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Lord have mercy on me**

I have built an altar where I've worshipped things of man;
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You;
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing;
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again. **CHORUS**

I have longed to know You and all Your tender mercies,
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end;
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence,
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night. **CHORUS**

ENDING: Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us; 4x

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Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord, each of us has rebelled against God and rejected His will, His ways, and His commands. We were born in sin and weakness. We cannot escape our rebellious condition on our own. Let us then confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

Silence for reflection.

P Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we have rejected Your ways and sought our own. We have rebelled against Your almighty rule, trying to be the masters of our own lives. We have failed to love You with all our heart. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to love our enemies as You commanded. Forgive us by Your power, mercy, and grace.

P In the power, mercy, and grace of almighty God, Jesus Christ died and was raised for you. On account of Christ and His all-sufficient grace, God forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. His grace is sufficient for us. His power is made perfect in weakness.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 2:1–5

¹ He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you."

²And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day.

⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

²Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

⁴Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 12:1–10

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man 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. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But 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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Mark 6:13

Alleluia. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 6:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works 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. ⁴And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged 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 put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

The Potter's Hand

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Saviour,
I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hand,
Crafted into Your perfect plan.

You gently call me into Your presence,
Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit.
Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life through Your eyes.
I'm captured by Your holy calling,
Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself
Lead me Lord I pray.

***CHORUS: Take me, mold me, use me, fill me,
I give my life to the Potter's hand.
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me
I give my life to the Potter's hand.***

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Sermon – “Believing, Living, and Telling the Truth can Get you Into Trouble!” “Believing, Living, and Telling the Truth can Get you Into Trouble!” OUTLINE

1. It is often hard to let the truth (that sets us free) inform how we live and interact with others, but we believers are called to bear witness to Christ all the time in all things.
 - As permanent citizens of Heaven, we are called to be salt and light in this temporary world and temporary nation.
 - Our faith – which is based on and is entirely truth – informs our words and actions in how we live and love and how we vote!
 - In fact every person’s beliefs inform how they live and individually vote.
 - Oftentimes we get into the weeds doing moral comparisons with candidates. That is a fool’s errand and gets us into the weeds. Focus on those issues that are informed by faith!
 - These are the issues that echo into eternity... life from womb to tomb... natural human sexuality... natural marriage... the nuclear family... the Free Exercise of Religion outside the walls of home and church informing how we do life and work.
2. But not all beliefs are true!
3. The very nature of truth IS exclusive – it’s either true or it is not true. All truth is God’s truth.
4. Our Constitution is based on many eternal truths.
 - And God OWNS these eternal truths... they are GOD’S TERRITORY AND ISSUES.

- Just because certain things are politicized does not mean they are fundamentally **about** politics.
- 5. Yes, it can be hard to let the truth [that sets us free] inform how we live and interact with other citizens, but we believers are called to bear witness to Christ, just as believers in ancient times.
- 6. True prophets throughout the ages all speak God's truth. Many perform miracles. And many, like Jesus, were and still are rejected.
 - a. Israel typifies humanity in its tragic failure to listen to God's prophets.
 - b. True prophets then and now have God's words of life, salvation and hope, and more often than not, people are not interested, or downright nasty when they hear God's truth.
 - c. Jesus was rejected even in His own hometown, *"And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief."*
 - d. When we insist on staying faithful to God's Word and His teachings, we WILL get push-back from the world, even from family, friends, & brother and sisters in Christ.
 - e. Some may nod yes to the pastor in church but won't act on really learning and knowing God and His Word and following it. When their world's get rocked, boom!, a crisis of faith, and with only little knowledge of God it can intensify the crisis of faith.
- 7. Friends, eternity is at stake here and offered only through faith in Jesus Christ, and you would think that believers young and old would desire a pastor who wanted them to know Jesus and God's Word as much as possible! Instead of skipping church, or napping in church, or complaining, we all need to discipline our ears and attention spans to welcome the challenge to think deep and learn the most important information in existence – information that is transformational for us here and now on this side of eternity and that leads us through into eternal life.
- 8. Christ needs to be the center of all we are and do.
- 9. Don't ever be duped into thinking that you know enough of God's Word, no matter how long you've been a Christian.
- 10. Let all your desires be transformed and rearranged to place Christ at the very center of every aspect of your life.
- 11. In many ways... we can often be obstinate and act no differently than the people from Jesus' hometown. People forget that Jesus' words in the Bible are not limited to just the one's in Red Letters, but the **whole** Bible is God-Breathed. The Bible doesn't contradict itself as so many believe, it contradicts them!
- 12. Faithful believers who live their faith out loud, sharing it in words and deeds have always experienced push-back from the world, or worse because people typically don't like or want to hear what God says.

- a. Even though Jesus knew His disciples would get opposition and rejection, would even fail at times and even question their belief, He still anointed and gifted them for the work He gave them!
 - b. He still extends all His gifts then and now... to all sinners – which includes us – and including the obstinate who oppose Him.
- 13.** Jesus doesn't want you to just know ABOUT HIM – He loves you and wants you to know Him intimately – personally through His Word and Sacraments.
- 14.** God's Truths are divisive in this temporary, fallen world. God spoke through the author of Hebrews saying, *"The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*
- 15.** Christ died for all the world including the obstinate rejectors, knowing full well the rejection He would have. He knew the only way someone could be reconciled back to God and receive forgiveness, salvation and life was to die on the cross. It is a scandalous thought to the world, but to those who repent and trust in Christ, His death and resurrection, it is eternal life. Stay the course by brothers and sisters in Christ. You have received God's Word. He wants you to be salt and light as a Truth-teller. Even though you will be opposed, ***STAY THE COURSE!***
- 16.** *"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-24)*

Apostles' Creed (*Words on screens*)

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

MEN – For children and infants, that they be raised by faithful parents and guardians, and grow in strength and in knowledge of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

WOMEN – For those in power, especially elected officials, that they would treat those under their power with justice and compassion, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

MEN – For the elderly and homebound, that God would strengthen them through His Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord. **C Lord, have mercy.**

WOMEN – For the leaders of this congregation, that God would send His guidance and wisdom for the benefit of this congregation and community, let us pray to the Lord. **☞ Lord, have mercy.**

MEN – For those who mourn the death of loved ones, that they find hope in the resurrection and return of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **☞ Lord, have mercy.**

WOMEN – For those who celebrate special occasions and answered prayers, that their joy be a witness to the goodness of God, let us pray to the Lord. **☞ Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are sick and recovering, that they rely on the all-sufficient grace of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **☞ Lord, have mercy.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your power, mercy, and grace. **☞ Amen.**

**☞ 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.**

The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

Benediction