

Martin Luther Chapel – Pennsauken, NJ
4th Sunday After Pentecost – 7 July 2019

Color: Green

Propers: 9

Divine Service: I

Proper Preface: Common

GOSPEL:
ESV

Luke 10: 1 - 20

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two^[a] others and sent them on ahead of him (**before His face-KJV**), two by two, into every town (**city-KJV**) and place where he himself was about to go. ² And (**Therefore-KJV**) he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out (**forth-KJV**) as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The Return of the Seventy-Two

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¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Footnotes:

- a. [Luke 10:1](#) Some manuscripts *seventy*; also verse [17](#)
- b. [Luke 10:21](#) Or *for so it pleased you well*
- c. [Luke 10:35](#) A *denarius* was a day's wage for a laborer
- d. [Luke 10:38](#) Greek *he*
- e. [Luke 10:42](#) Some manuscripts *few things are necessary, or only one*

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Sermon Title: “Praise and thank God”

My brother and sisters in Christ,

 God reveals **His mighty deeds through** the readings this morning.

 YHWH reveals **His mighty deeds through** visible signs this morning.

 The Ancient of Days reveals **His mighty deeds** through flesh and blood this morning.

 He has **done, does, and will continue to do** this with **urgency and purpose** –

 that every man, woman and child would

 hear, see and consume

 the pure and entire Word of God

 and not perish in their rebellion

 but receive true peace and eternal life.

 God’s **holiness is revealed through the Law** that condemns

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 every man's rebellion against and rejection of
† His person,
† His Word,
† His provision,
† and His protection
 for which each man, woman and child is rightly judged
† a criminal –
† a liar –
† a murderer - spiritually dead
† and justly condemned here in time
† and then eternally on the Last Day.

 God's **grace is revealed by way of one Man,**
 Jesus Christ,
 who **calls all** to repentance and forgiveness of sin,
 **promises** true, abundant, and eternal life to all
 who, by the **power** of the Holy Spirit,
† believe in His name
† and are **conceived anew** as
‡ a child of the most high God,
‡ His disciple,
‡ and a son of peace,
† and remain faithful to Him amidst
‡ God's ordained trials and afflictions
‡ and Satan's temptations.

 God is worthy of all praise and thanks for
 His **righteous indignation** at man's lawlessness
 and His **unmerited love** for His elect,
 His **just condemnation** of man's rejection
 and His **gracious pardon** offered through Christ Jesus.

 God is worthy of all praise and thanks
 for He **has written** the names of His children
 **in** the Book of Life (Philippians 4: 3, Revelation 3: 5).

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 God is worthy of all praise and thanks for
 He **did not write** the names of the children of the devil
 in the Book of Life (Revelation 13: 8).

The Lamb of God **continued with His face set toward Jerusalem** after His rejection by the Samaritan village and the recoil of some of His disciples at the cost of fellowship and journeying with Him.

 Jesus **called** seventy-two disciples to Himself,
 **gave** them instruction, authority, power and responsibility
 to go before Him into the towns,
 prepare them for His arrival
 by announcing peace and Gospel to the people of those towns,
 healing the sick
 and casting out demons
 in His name.
 **enabled** them to walk in **the power of the Spirit**
 and not trust their reason or strength
 for their provisions and lodging.

 His **urgency was conveyed** with His **prohibition** on normal social greetings

 on the highways
 and in the streets.

 He **instructed them** to
 announcement of His peace,
 reside where it was received
 and retreat where it was rejected.

 The LORD **commanded them** to have table fellowship
 with those who received them in His name,
 subsisting on their host's generosity
 regardless of their high or low estate.

 The Master **directed them to**

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 refuse table fellowship
 and pronounced a curse upon any town that rejected them in His name.

† He **announced the gravity** of their rejection

† in **His and the Father’s condemnation** of Chorazin, Capernaum and Bethsaida,

‡ where He **taught powerfully** and **with authority**

‡ and **performed many mighty works,**

† which would be greater than that of the pagan cities of Tyre and Sidon.

 The Holy One of God

 **affirmed** their good work upon their return

 but **pointed them** to the true source of their joy and satisfaction –

† He knew His own, His disciples and brothers and sisters,

† for their names were

‡ written in heaven,

‡ written in the Book of Life

‡ from before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1: 4).

† They were not servants or slaves but

‡ were children, heirs, conquerors, the elect

‡ that the Holy Spirit made holy, right, and straight

‡ through the means of grace

‡ and, subsequently, the good work of proclaiming

 Christ –

 the peace of God

 that surpassing all human understanding-

 humbly and obediently in the face of both reception and rejection.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, God **stands in our midst** this very hour worthy of all our praise and thanks for His powerful teaching and mighty works given you and me.

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 He calls us to Himself,

 **placed His name upon us** through Holy Baptism,

 **adopting us through** Christ Jesus.

 that we would calm ourselves from terrifying encounters

† with the personal, financial, relational and spiritual wolves

† that sought to overwhelm and devour us

† this past week and even this morning.

 to put down all the excitement of the victories

† achieved in His name

† over and against our old Adam, the fallen world and the kingdom of the evil one

† for Satan seeks an advantage

 even after defeat

 to gratify our flesh,

 profanely puffing up our pride,

 and diverting our faith

 from its founder and perfecter

 onto ourselves.

Rejoice and thank God, first and foremost,

 that He has **chosen** you

 and **inscribed**

† your name,

† my name

† and the names of our brothers and sisters in Christ

 in the Book of Life.

 The Father **ordained** it

 for His **purposes**

 and according to His **will**

 without any merit or work on our part.

 Our Lord and God has **already prepared**

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 a place in our heavenly Father's home **for us to dwell in peace**
 and a place at His table where He **reclines us in the joy** of His fellowship.

Rejoice and thank God that again this morning He **gathers you and me** around His means of grace –

 His holy Word and holy Sacraments

 by which He **graciously and generously**

 sustains,

 strengthens,

 safeguards,

 and comforts us

 as His Spirit **conforms us more and more** into His image

 through His ordained trials and afflictions

 while thwarting and bringing to nothing the

 plots,

 schemes,

 and temptations of the evil one.

 Christ **continues to validate** the mutual consolation of His brothers and sisters through

 the fellowship of this altar

 and **gathering us** to Himself and one another at fellowship and stewardship events such as

 our Mid-Week Advent and Lent dinners,

 our after Service fellowship,

 Chapel clean up days,

 our three Christian Education classes and other such events.

 He **calls us together** in His presence that we would enjoy

 the richness of each other

 here in time

 and then in eternity.

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Rejoice and thank God that, again this day, He **sends us out**

 into this lost and dying world with

 the authority and responsibility to proclaim the radical peace of the Gospel

 and to greet people along the way,

 in our and their homes, in marketplaces,

 and places of entertainment and recreation with God's peace in His name.

 Jesus **assures us that the peace that He gives us is**

 both **true and eternal** peace

 with which He **extends through**

 our Friendship Sunday this month,

 Sunday School Rally Sunday in September

 Our food pantry,

 Our support of

 Kid's Alley;

 Philadelphia Lutheran Ministry;

 And Daniel Wunderlich and our seminaries.

Rejoice and thank God that He **sees the sons of peace accept our greeting** of peace and His Gospel.

 He **assures us that He sees Satan cast down** as we sow His holy Name in the marketplace and the homes.

 He **verifies that the Holy Spirit gives faith and true life**

 through the hearing of the Word of God –

 through our voices

 the LORD and Giver of Life **rushes into their ears and hearts**

 and **implants the Incarnate Word,**

 **feeding** the new creation in Christ with the true Manna from heaven,

 **watering** their parched soul with living water,

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✠ and through His gifts and fruits **provides an abundant harvest**
both within
✠ them
✠ and those they love.

Rejoice and thank God that He **places us**

✠ in direct and continuous contact with unrepentant sinners –

✠ people that appear

✠ socially and civically admirable

✠ here in time

✠ but are “filled with all manner of

✠ unrighteousness,

✠ evil,

✠ covetousness,

✠ malice.

✠ They are full of

✠ envy,

✠ murder,

✠ strife,

✠ deceit,

✠ maliciousness.

✠ They are

✠ gossips,

✠ ³⁰ slanderers,

✠ haters of God,

✠ insolent,

✠ haughty,

✠ boastful,

✠ inventors of evil,

✠ disobedient to parents, ³¹

✠ foolish,

✠ faithless,

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✠ heartless,
✠ ruthless” (Romans 1: 29 – 31).

✠ Jesus **assures** you and me that those who
✠ reject, discount or mock our offers
✠ of **His peace and His Gospel**
✠ are in fact rejecting Him,
✠ yet not only Him
✠ but our heavenly Father
✠ who sends Him.

✠ His **righteous indignation** and **just condemnation** against those who
reject Him
✠ in the visible church
✠ who have heard **His Gospel**,
✠ received **His sacraments**,
✠ and enjoyed the **communion of the saints**
✠ is **greater than** toward
✠ the other godless
✠ who drive past this Chapel
✠ this day
✠ and throughout this week.

✠ His divine judgment is both **temporal and eternal**.

Rejoice and thank God that

✠ He has **written your name**
✠ in the heaven –
✠ in the Book of Life,

✠ He **gives you**
✠ **His peace and His Gospel**
✠ to bless other children of God
✠ who are currently in
✠ or He is **bringing into** His kingdom,
✠ and **takes offensive** the rejection of
✠ His peace and His Gospel,

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 His Son and His children,
 His Church and His family.
 Praise and thank God now and forever more.

Amen and Amen.