

The Second Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
 Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee.
 Amen.

Exodus 19:2–8

² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, ³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶ and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.
⁸ *All the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.*

PSALM

Psalm 100

100 A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS.

¹ *Make a joyful noise to the LORD, ALL THE EARTH!*

² Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;
 we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,
 and his faithfulness to all generations.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:6–15

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man *Jesus Christ abounded for many*.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35–10:8 (9–20)

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

10 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ²The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵*These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go*

rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’³ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers,⁴ cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ¹

Matthew 28:16–20 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

He is with you always, to the end of the age, dear disciples of Jesus. HE! The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit! HE! He surrounds you left and right, above and below, inside and outside and everything else! The God that terrifies all men--therefore RELIGION; therefore WAR; therefore POLITICS; therefore GREED; therefore every OTHER form of weakness...--

FAR from being REPULSED by sinners NOW... God does NOT even know how to DE-TACH Himself...from you. Or me. There are actually MANY like us.

He keeps His Word!

HE...sent the Eleven disciples out to make more AZACTLY like them: They worshiped Him; some doubted. God is in His heaven and all is right with the Church! 'Off you go!' 'Who should go? The worshipers? The doubters?' 'All y'all; off you go; there are MANY like you!'

HE...taught them that Heaven prioritizes prayer that asks pastors for the people, shepherds for the sheep, workers for the

¹ [Lutheran Service Book Three Year Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Concordia Publishing House.

harvest. THEN...He CREATED them! Twelve first. We have their names. And two thousand years is not so long between you and me...and Rocko, or Pete; brother Andy; Jim and John; Phil and Bart; Tom and Matt; Jake and Simon; a Thad; and a Jude, who betrayed Him.

Peter's lips denied he even KNEW Jesus; Judas led Jesus' enemies to Him: 'Just watch me pucker-up!' From HIS lips: 'Heal those who are sick. Raise the dead!'

Yeah. God is in His heaven and all is right with His Kingdom. This sure is a NEW Kingdom, isn't it?!

WEEE are living proof of THAT!

I have printed in your bulletin the beginning of the Fifth Chief Part of the Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther. The Spirit calls out: recite together!

What is Confession?

Confession has TWO PARTS! First that we CONFESS our sins; and second that we RECEIVE absolution, that is forgiveness, FROM THE PASTOR...as...from...God...Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

MANY are raised from their weakness by those words. I know, my friends; I know! Does not look like it, does it?!

We harassed and helpless have been social-distancing long before the rest of our fellow men. Seems you and I have been virulent all along, worth keeping distance from!

The Book reveals it's worse than we can men know!

Saint Paul launched missile after missile from his arsenal to hit us in the Romans portion today: weak, ungodly, sinner, enemy.

THANK...YOU...JESUS!

Thank you, Paul!

Thank you, Martin Luther.

Our fellow men are NOT disinfecting themselves from YOU AND ME, keeping their distance from you and me-- BECAUSE...OF...YOU 'N ME! It's because The Holy Spirit keeps taking off His mask and sneezing on us! Abounding! On many!

Since we are no LONGER 'UNDER...THE...LAW'--Jesus did THAT, took THAT, closed THAT age---

WEEE... can take E...V...E...R...Y indictment. We can smile at every accusation. We can even be amused when our accusers only bring up our MINOR offenses! 'THAT is how I REPULSE you? That's ALL you got?!'

Saint Paul is going to run out of adjectives LONG before Our Father in heaven stops hearing us pray, praise and give thanks.

And...when the wolves nip at your wool...well, that's what your poor shepherd was called for and ordained for.

The wolves have only one bark, one bite: 'YOU...REPEL...GOD! (Well, at least you REPEL ME, for sure!) And...What are YOUUUU...going to DOOOO about it?!' Satisfy ME! I mean, satisfy Heaven!'

And--just to be all that more scary...boo!--the wolves--the devil, the pope, the world, the TV, men, women, children...

Hear THEM! Hear them quote the Old Testament lesson appointed for today; the Book of Moses:

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

⁸ All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

And, THAT ain't good!

For them. But we...ain't...them! Jesus Himself makes the distinction!

For y'all...for the many, there is THIS good news.

Jesus sent the pastors FIRST to Israel--He WAS under Moses, after all. And so, with us, for us, He suffered; and He bled; and He was beat and spit on and nailed to a board and shamed for all the world to see...

And NONE of that—kept Heaven from FORSAKING HIM!

None of that could DE-TACH the Father from His Son. So His Spirit raised Him up. And that Man, Jesus, acts now as God all wrapped up in One Man--everything scary about God; now, not scary at all.

You are living proof of that: you few. He says there's many of you.

I am living proof of His resurrection and ascension.

Because your poor shepherd has water to douse hell's flames. Luther has taught me to lead you to revel in your washing at His hands.

And--as we also keep distance and obey the powers our Lord has installed!—God made me, Jesus rose for me, the Spirit landed on me—twenty-nine years ago, now!—to hand to you today, to eat and to drink, His Body and His Blood, for all those who are weak and ungodly and sinful and naturally enemies of God.

But here's the best news of all!

U...N...L...I...K...E Moses... Who's that? Moses?

When the Gospel SO sets you free that you can praise and thank God by admitting to your lousy pastor your weakness...

¹³ Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. ²

Moses writes that he was a shepherd too! For his father-in-law Jethro; then for Israel. He also writes, several times, that that 'moses' fella is a tattle-tale. 'HERE is why God is tired of you NOW! And you're wearing ME out too!'

Your New Testament shepherd is not. Not called to tell the tale of YOU!

MY calling does NOT include me hearing and then REPORTING what YOU promise to do right, what YOU pledge to

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Pr 28:13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

change about you, and what YOU must finally admit where God should rightly thunder. God already has a Moses and Moses is fine at whatever it is that he does.

Your shepherd, your pastor, is never going to tell God what YOU have said. YOU, my dear ones, do NOT write my script. Someone else does. Someone Else.

'Dear Father, your Son's death made weak and ungodly men acceptable; your Spirit raised your Son--so He has NO PROBLEM raising those who praise you, thank you, by admitting they know how to be your enemy. The healthy do not need a doctor; the sick do. Your Son does NOT come to us, He is NOT WITH US...to hear what WE plan to do to get better. He came, He comes, He will come again, ONLY to save us.'

Sinners have a Friend in Heaven.

The Spirit only brings to life those who are dead.

Blind men received sight from Jesus.

And for those have NOTHING to offer HIM, no more resolutions to toss up...

He is nothing but GIFT! That's what He sent the Eleven for, then Saint Paul, then your poor pastor; and also—GIFT!—you.

One of those first twelve He sent out wrote all that down for us: Matt; Matthew; now, Saint Matthew, the Evangelist. That man's life was surrounded by the most common of all weaknesses: the idol money. Until One Day, Heaven GAVE...Matthew... The Gift.

Your poor pastor puzzled this week over why the Word keeps telling us there are MANY people like us: weak and dead

and hostile to God and phony. It cannot BE to make us HAUGHTY about our NUMBERS! That's what the devil's pastors are for; and this world's mobs.

The Spirit speaks to each of us, to our little group, of the MANY--so that when the day seems FILLED with opportunities to ATTACH ourselves to the REPULSIVE...we're not surprised, not hindered, and finally, not even REPULSED!

We are baptized! And Jesus teaches us, daily and much: 'I TOLD YOU there were MANY! Just like Y'ALL!'

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, in the Name of Jesus! Amen!