

July 4, 2021

HYMNS FOR 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LBW #566 “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

LBW #507 “How Firm A Foundation”

ELW #888 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies” (see pg. 4)

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

In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me.³He 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.⁴The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.”⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

PSALM: Psalm 123

R Our eyes look to you, O God, until you show us your mercy. (Ps. 123:2)

¹To 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**

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

⁴**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

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

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

A God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries (*local ministries may be named*). Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C Amen.



AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

MATERNA



1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - ci - ous skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years



1. For pur - plemoun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
2. A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
3. Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
4. Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



1. A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
2. A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,
3. A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
4. A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,



1. And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.
2. Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law.
3. Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
4. And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea.

Text: CMD; Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929. Music: Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903.