

Home Service for June 7, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

You may also find listening to some of your favorite hymns helpful in worship.

You are a blessing simply because you are God's beloved child.

Call to Worship:

Shout with joy, for God has blessed us.

Sing with praise, for God is here.

Worship and pray, for God is listening.

Opening Prayer:

Blessed God, thank you for blessing us in your myriad ways. Thank you for trusting us to be your people, to shine with your love, and to work for your justice. In this time of worship, guide and strengthen us, that we may go forth to bless your world fully and abundantly. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate Christ, we yearn for that mysterious gift of shalom. We long for healing and wholeness, for peace and comfort. But the gift all too often seems elusive, or even absent. Touch our hearts and heal our weary souls. Bless our wounds, that we may bless others in need of your love. Soothe our fears with courage, that we may be strong enough to answer your call. Raise us into new life with your miraculous grace, that we may be blessings of miraculous grace in your world. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

*Christ's love is faithful and true. God's blessings are sure.
Be encouraged, dear friends, your faith has made you well.*

Read Psalm 33:1-12

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

² Praise the Lord with the harp;
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

- ³ Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully, and shout for joy.
- ⁴ For the word of the Lord is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
- ⁵ The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.
- ⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea into jars^[a];
he puts the deep into storehouses.
- ⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the people of the world revere him.
- ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
- ¹⁰ The Lord foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
- ¹¹ But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations.
- ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

Prayers of the People:

Gracious and loving Creator, Sometimes the words just are not there. God, you are so amazing that our words and thoughts of how best to praise you pale in comparison to the splendors of your name. You are the Almighty, you are the Redeemer, you are grace never ending and the embodiment of love itself. And when we come to you in prayer, sometimes words fail us in what to say. Yes, we lift up our concerns, and yet sometimes they seem so small in comparison to the tribulations encountered across your creation. How can our problems compare to disasters people face, or the fighting that surrounds people trying to escape, or the horrors that no child should ever experience? Lord God, sometimes when we come to you to pray, we are clueless as to what we should ask for. You know the thoughts in our minds and the desires of our hearts, and there are times when they conflict. Sometimes we want what is not always the best for us, and there are times that we long to hold on to the things we should let go of. There are times when really the best thing we can do is just pray thy will be done. In these moments, dear God, we are so very thankful for the lessons of your Son Jesus Christ for teaching us the words to pray when our own are insufficient, for our tradition teaches that Jesus said to pray to Our Father ...

Lord's Prayer

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

Read the Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

²"I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.^[a]

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."^[b]

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring^[c] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord.

⁹Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Read the Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means

nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations."^[a] He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."^[b] ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." ²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Read the Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-30

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'^[a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

²² Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; ³⁰ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.”

Message

Our Gospel contains two sets of lessons for our lives and our faith. Jesus was always busy about his Heavenly Father’s business. No matter where Jesus would be, he would always seek out and save the lost. Today we heard about the tax collector, Matthew. From his story we find that Jesus does not consider a person’s background when calling. Jesus does not look at the outward appearance before calling anyone unto eternal life. The fact is, it makes no difference at all concerning a person’s nationality, background or standing in society. Rather the Lord Jesus calls the sinner, every sinner to repentance and unto eternal life and to find faith in God.

Matthew was an example of that fact. Matthew was busy about his own business, cheating people. In those days, tax collectors overcharged everyone. The more they collected the more they kept as pay. But everything changed for Matthew when Jesus called out, “Follow me” to this totally social outcast. Matthew got up, left everything and followed Jesus. His reaction showed no regrets. We know that Matthew kept on following Jesus for the rest of his life. Matthew was not only called unto eternal life but also into God’s kingdom of work. Matthew’s reaction of faith was that he invites Jesus to eat with him. Matthew invited his friends to the meal and to come and listen to Jesus. Matthew began working in God’s kingdom by bring in those who need salvation the most.

You can almost feel the joyous reaction of Matthew. The lost was now found. He was anxious and excited to get busy about the heavenly Father’s work, rather than his own. We are also to be just as excited about carrying out the mission God has

entrusted to each of us. Take to heart, for this reminds us how valuable and important we are in God's eyes. Not only are we considered special in God's eyes, but now our lives also have a purpose. We may declare the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light! What a privilege. What a blessing. What an opportunity.

The second part of the Gospel's lessons is that faith releases God's power and our source of faith is the Word of God. Faith is a work of God and not our own work and therefore releases all limitations on God, so all the impossibilities are now possible. In the second day of our Gospel, we are given a glimpse of a day in the life of Jesus. And during this day we hear about three amazing and miraculous healings; a girl, a woman, and two men. Each was healed from a different illness, and each was healed in a different way. But in all three, Jesus and faith were involved.

The first is a ruler of the synagogue from Capernaum. He is grief stricken that his twelve-year-old daughter has died. Of course, it is possible that he has heard Jesus teach, since Jesus had taught many times in Capernaum and certainly in the synagogue. He may have also witnessed miracles or at least heard of the many miracles of Jesus. So, he seeks Jesus out, for he is desperate. He reveals his incredible faith by stating: "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." Later Jesus arrives at the home where all the neighbors and relatives are grieving. They laugh when Jesus says that she is just sleeping. They know she is dead and that is the end. There was no faith in their hearts. So, Jesus sent them out, took her by the hand and called her to arise.

Then we have the second healing: a woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve long years. That was not just irritating but it separated her from society. She was unclean, meaning that she was not allowed near the temple or the synagogue. She must touch no one and no one can touch her. While the ruler was experiencing the joy of his daughter and life in his home for twelve years, during all those same years that this woman was grieving alone. No husband, no children, no connection with the fellowship of believers. Truly it was a very lonely life. She saw Jesus passing through the crowd. This was her only chance. And in faith she reaches out and grabs the tassel from the corner of his robe. Jesus feels the power released from him to heal her but does not know who it was. Jesus asked who touched him. She confessed her faith that if she touched only his garment, she would be well. And Jesus affirms: Your faith HAS made you well!

The third healing of two blind men, they too are desperate. They followed Jesus and cried out: "Have mercy Son of David!" They followed all the way to the home

where Jesus is staying and finally when inside the house, Jesus confronts their faith: “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Hearing their faith, they are healed by his touch.

These are three amazing and wonderful and different stories of healing but what binds them together? Faith. Each is an example of the power of faith and teaches us the great treasure that is right in front of us every day. Do we realize how much faith changes our lives and the world around us? What can we learn about this great treasure of faith?

The first lesson: faith is the key that releases the power of God. The opposite is true as well: a lack of faith limits the power of God. It is clear that for the woman and the two blind men that it was their FAITH that healed them. It was also faith that the synagogue official had that healed his daughter. All of them had absolute confidence that Jesus not only could but would heal.

The second lesson about faith which is good news for us: we have a source of faith which is the Word of God. I have read these stories of healing many times and each time I am amazed at their faith. I have wondered if those people were just born that way or did they have a greater religious inclination? Were they just more spiritual? The answer is No! I believe that they were not any different in their doubts than we are. But what made them different than others was the fact that they received the teaching of and believed the Word of God. For we are not born with faith. It is not a talent or ability that some have and some do not, although it does seem easier for children to believe than adults. Faith comes from outside of us.

The third lesson is concerning the power of faith, for faith is a work not of man but of God. Just as we have seen that faith comes from the Word of God, so also the power of faith is not in ourselves but in the power of Jesus Christ and it is to him that glory is to be given. Salvation or any other miracle that happens through faith is a work of God’s power alone. It gives no credit to us, or to any other person, but gives glory only to the Lord of the universe, God Almighty.

Fourthly, we can learn the lesson that faith releases to God all the impossibilities. The greatest impossibility is the salvation of a lost soul. We are born self-centered, self-seeking. We are born living for the flesh and in the world. And yet God does a miracle through the Word and touches our hearts. He creates faith and brings us to confession of sins and faith. We trust in Christ alone and are totally righteous through Him. God takes the soul that is long lost and far from God and transforms that life!

Faith is simply releasing all of our burdens, all our needs and cares, all of our fears, all of our impossibilities into the hands of God because we cannot deal with them. We cannot do nothing. We are totally helpless. But God can do the impossible. Faith lets everything go out of our hands and into his hands, because he can handle it. We can trust him. What better place for us to place our trust and faith, but in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Benediction:

As you enter a new week, may you experience God's presence. May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips, over your hearts and your feelings and emotions and your compassion for all others, and over your hands and your feet as you put into action all that God commands you. During this week, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each of you. Amen.