

July 5, 2009 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

**After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship,
we will begin the liturgy.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We ask your blessing upon the proclamation and hearing of your word. Sustain those who preach and those who receive it. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who work to protect and conserve our rich and plentiful resources. Give them insight and innovation as they deal with the vast challenges of caring for your creation. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations, for their interdependence, and for the good of humankind. Keep us mindful of the blessings of our country and its freedoms. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill or in the hospital. Surround them with the care of their family and friends, and grant them your healing. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who long for welcome and hospitality but find only rejection and exclusion. Lead us into a ministry of hospitality in our workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and homes. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered. We give you thanks for all the saints and those who rest in you, and pray that the example of their lives might strengthen us in our own witness and service. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, you are near to us when we cry out to you. Into your embrace we commend all for whom we pray, through Christ and by the power of your Spirit.
Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e., "The First Reading is from..... chapter of, verses" then the text.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING- Already king over Judah, the southern kingdom, David here is anointed king over Israel, the northern kingdom, as well. Captured by David, Jerusalem is chosen as the political and religious center for the new combined territory. It is known ever after as "the city of David."
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. 10And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 48

Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised,
in the city of our God, on the LORD's holy mountain.

**Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is Mount Zion,
the summit of the north and city of the great king.**

God is in the citadels of Jerusalem;
revealed to be the sure refuge of the city.

**Behold, the kings assembled
and marched forward together.**

As they looked, they were astounded;
dismayed, they fled in terror.

**Trembling seized them there;
they writhed like a woman in childbirth;**

with an east wind you shattered them
like the ships of Tarshish.

**As we have heard, so have we seen,
in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God—
may God establish it forever!**

In the midst of your temple, O God,
we meditate on your steadfast love.

**Your praise, like your name, O God, reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is full of righteousness.**

Let Mount Zion be glad and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments.

**Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about it;
count the number of the city's towers.**

Consider well its ramparts; examine its strongholds;
that you may tell those who come after.

**Mark this—God is our God forever and ever,
guiding us even to the end.**

SECOND READING- *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.*

2 Corinthians 12:2–10

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Mark 6:1–13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On 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! Is 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. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. 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." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.