

ELM GROVE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 21, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil's 55th Ordination Anniversary

Prelude

Hymn of Invocation

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come (st. 1-5)

Divine Service 4

p. 203-212

Introit

Psalm 56:3-4,10-11; antiphon: v.13

P For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,

C that I may walk before God in the light of life.

P When I am afraid,

C I put my trust in you.

P In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

C What can flesh do to me?

P In God, whose word I praise,

C in the Lord, whose word I praise,

P in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.

C What can man do to me?

**All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling,

C that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7–13

⁷O Lord, you have deceived me,
and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I,
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all the day;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out,
I shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering.
Terror is on every side!
"Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

say all my close friends,
 watching for my fall.
 "Perhaps he will be deceived;
 then we can overcome him
 and take our revenge on him."
¹¹But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior;
 therefore my persecutors will stumble;
 they will not overcome me.
 They will be greatly shamed,
 for they will not succeed.
 Their eternal dishonor
 will never be forgotten.
¹²O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous,
 who sees the heart and the mind,
 let me see your vengeance upon them,
 for to you have I committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the Lord;
 praise the Lord!
 For he has delivered the life of the needy
 from the hand of evildoers.

Hymn of Response

727 On Eagles' Wings

Epistle

Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, . . .
²¹"Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.
²⁴"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.
²⁶"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

Hymn of the Day

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come (st. 6-8)

Sermon

"Adoption as Sons" (Romans 8:12-17)

Offering

Hymns During Distribution

570 Just as I am, without One Plea
532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns
659 Lord of Our Life

Closing Hymn

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come (9-10)

Postlude

Acknowledgements

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ALTAR PARAMENTS: The green paraments of the Pentecost season prompt us to remember that our life in Christ is one of growth, as branches connected to the Vine produce good fruit.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Placed by Dennis and Carole Braun with thanksgiving and praise for the blessing of Christian fathers and in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Participants

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Guest Preacher
Organist
Elder
Chancel Assistant
Usher Team
Altar Guild

Pastor Skovgaard
Pastor Teggatz
Rev. Jonah Burakowski
Jordan Fischer
Paul Haut
Mark Ewert
Sharon Boudro, Kirk Midtbo, Diane Olson, Jim Olson, John Schaefer
Sharon Boudro, Diane Olson

EGL in the Word (Fourth Sunday After Pentecost)

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah is unique among the prophets in that his book captures his personality and experience as a prophet in a raw, personal way. Jeremiah struggles, laments, and commends it all into the Lord's hands. Some of the language is strong ("O LORD, you have deceived me...let me see your vengeance upon them") and reminiscent of the imprecatory psalms, giving us a hint of how dire Jeremiah's circumstances were. And yet, however fierce their persecution is, God's protection is fiercer. However strong the opposition, God is stronger as a "dread warrior" (20:11). In that confidence, Jeremiah commends it to God (20:12) rather than taking personal revenge.

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:12-23

In Martin Luther's 1520 writing "The Freedom of a Christian," he posits two theses: (1) "The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none." (2) "The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Our verses from Romans are a fine illustration of this teaching. We are not under law, but under grace! We are free, subject to none, in other words! But then, the pivotal question: "Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!" (6:15). We've been set free from one kingdom (sin, death, and the devil) and brought into another kingdom (forgiveness, life, and inclusion in the body of Christ). We don't abuse this freedom; rather, we present ourselves as instruments for righteousness and servants of all, subject to all! As Paul says in another letter, "For freedom Christ has set us up free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

Jeremiah's experience of discipleship isn't abnormal, according to Jesus; rather this is what it looks like to bear the cross and be a disciple of a kingdom that is not of this world, following the example of the master of the house, Christ himself (10:24-25). The message of the kingdom, repentance and faith, causes division and persecution, even in one's closest and most treasured relationships (10:21-23). And yet, as Jeremiah trusted in God's provision and protection, Jesus directs his disciples to trust in his provision and protection. "...have no fear of them...do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul...fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." His point? Endure. Be faithful. And trust that God holds you in His hands.

Questions for Reflection This Week

Monday: In both versions of the Lord's Prayer recorded in the Gospels for us, Jesus teaches us to call upon God as our Father, not my Father, not your Father, but "our" Father. He is inviting us into the same family, into fellowship with the Triune God. How significant is it to you that you can call upon God as your Dad, as the One who has invited you to run into His presence with whatever is on your mind?

Tuesday: It's worth pondering that God the Father does not have any grandchildren. Yes, God is faithful to each and every generation who trusts in Him, but He only deals with us as children. He calls each generation out of slavery to sin into sonship. Can you think of concrete ways you can honor your Dad, your family name, this week as you live out your identity as a child of God?

Wednesday: Jeremiah in our text today complains that God had hidden ("deceived") from Jeremiah some details of His working in the world. From the context it's clear that Jeremiah had not expected the troubles he encountered in being a prophet. While confessional Lutherans want to be faithful to the God who loves them, sometimes the troubles in this world can mount up and catch us off guard. Have there been specific times in your life when you've wanted to complain to God that He seemingly gave you more than you can bear? How did you find your way through it?

Thursday: As we would expect, when Jesus sends out the apostles 2x2 in a short-term mission He warns them to be realistic about the sort of opposition they might expect. We never want to find ourselves in conflict with family members, of course, but all too often faithfulness to Christ does engender conflict with family. Have you ever experienced that? How did you respond? Was there ever any resolution?

Friday: The Synod is preparing for a national convention in July. The delegates will elect leaders and make decisions based on various resolutions submitted. What would you like to see the Synod investing its time in over the next three years?