

July 3 & 6, 2025
4th Sunday after Pentecost



On the Want for Workers

In recent weeks we learned that everyone who has seen the grace of God will, whenever the opportunity arises, serve as a witness for Christ. However, Scripture teaches that there is also a need for individuals for whom gospel proclamation is their full-time focus. There are many different terms for these workers: shepherds, pastors, teachers, ministers, missionaries, etc. These workers are called by God himself through the Church to proclaim law and gospel in some public capacity. Called workers carry out their calling, not because of what they might gain from the flock, but because of what the flock might gain from Jesus through public ministry. Jesus taught there will always be a want for such workers. *“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few”* (Luke 10:2). So, this is a topic worthy of our undivided attention.



Opening Hymn

O Christ, Who Called the Twelve *CW*²¹ 716



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve to rise and fol - low you, for -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve the truth for a - ges sealed, whose
3 O Christ, who sent the Twelve on roads they'd nev - er trod to
4 O Christ, th' a - pos - tles' Lord, the mar - tyrs' strength and song, the



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways for ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, the ways of God re - vealed:
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim the near - er reign of God:
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King to whom the saints be - long:



grant us to hear your call to risk se - cur - i - ty and,
in - struct us now, we pray, by your em - pow'r - ing Word. True
send us on ways where faith tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, where
though gen - er - a - tions pass, our trib - ute still we bring, our



bound in heart and will to you, find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek their light, their life, their Lord.
love in - forms and hope sus - tains both life and min - is - try.
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, our lives an of - fer - ing.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930

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Stand

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, you have built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send your messengers to preserve your people in true peace, that, by the preaching of your Word, your church may be kept free from all harm and danger; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Ezekiel 2:9-3:11

Ezekiel was called to proclaim the word of the Lord to his fellow exiles, regardless of whether they listened or failed to listen.

⁹ Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out toward me, and in it there was a rolled-up scroll. ¹⁰ He unrolled it in front of me, and there was writing on both sides. Written on it was: Laments, Groaning, and Woe.

^{3:1} Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat what you have received. Eat this scroll, and then go, speak to the house of Israel.” ² I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll.

³ Then he said to me, “Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your belly with this scroll that I am giving you.” I ate, and in my mouth it was sweet like honey.

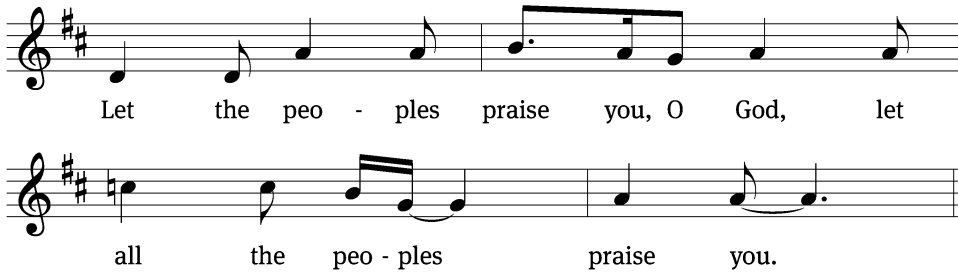
⁴ He then said to me, “Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them. ⁵ For you are not being sent to a people who have incomprehensible speech or a difficult language, but you are being sent to the house of Israel. ⁶ Nor are you being sent to many peoples who have incomprehensible speech and difficult languages, whose words you cannot understand. Certainly, if I were to send you to such people, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, because the whole house of Israel is hard-headed and hard-hearted. ⁸ Look, I have made your face just as hard as their faces and your forehead just as hard as their foreheads. ⁹ I have made your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not fear them, and do not be intimidated by their looks, for they are a rebellious house.”

¹⁰ Then he said to me, “Son of man, receive into your heart all my words that I will speak to you, and hear them with your ears. ¹¹ Go now to the exiles, to your own people. You shall speak to them and say to them, ‘This is what the Lord God says,’ whether they listen or they do not.” (EHV)

Psalm of the Day

Let the Peoples Praise You **Psalm 67a** CW²¹

Refrain



Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.

May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth. *Refrain*

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Christopher Tambling Setting: David Haas

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Second Lesson

1 Peter 5:1-4

Ministers are to shepherd God's flock exactly as Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, would himself.

¹ Therefore, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and as one who also shares in the glory that is about to be revealed, I appeal to the elders among you: ² Shepherd God's flock that is among you, serving as overseers, not grudgingly but willingly, as God desires, not because you are greedy for money but because you are eager to do it. ³ Do not lord it over those entrusted to your care, but be examples for the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory. (EHV)

Children's Devotion

Children are invited to come forward for a short devotion.

Hymn of the Day

Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give *CW²¹ 896*



1 Dear Lord, to your true ser - vants give the grace to you a -
 2 They glad - ly go at your com - mand to spread your Word o'er
 3 When all their la - bor seems in vain, re - vive their sink - ing



lone to live. Set free from sin to serve you, Lord, they
 sea and land. Be with them, Lord, and make them strong to
 hopes a - gain; and when suc - cess crowns what they do, O



go to share your liv - ing Word, the gos - pel mes - sage
 heal sin's ills, to right the wrong. Your rule is o - ver
 keep them hum - ble, Lord, and true un - til be - fore your



to pro - claim that all may know your sav - ing name.
 wind and wave, and might - y is your arm to save.
 judg - ment seat they lay their tro - phies at your feet.

Text: W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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Sermon

Luke 10:1-12,16-20

Jesus sends out messengers of his Word who were to serve the people they met exactly as Jesus would have if he had been there himself.

¹ After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

² He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go your way. Look, I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not carry a money bag or traveler’s bag or sandals. Do not greet anyone along the way. ⁵ Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace be to this house.’ ⁶ And if a peaceful person is there, your peace will rest on him, but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in that same house, eating and drinking what they give you, because the worker is worthy of his pay. Do not keep moving from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they welcome you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are in the town and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near you.’

¹⁰ “But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust from your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom on that day than for that town.

¹⁶ Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name!”

¹⁸ He told them, “I was watching Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. And nothing will ever harm you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names have been written in heaven.”
(EHV)



Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,**

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Speak to us, Lord, and feed us with your Word. Open our ears that we take your Words to heart.

God, be gracious to us and bless us, **and make your face shine on us.**

Give all your people hearts of shepherds, especially those who are called to serve in the public ministry. Move them by your love to seek and to save the lost.

God, be gracious to us and bless us, **and make your face shine on us.**

Let your Word reach those who have not heard it. Soften hard hearts. Open our mouths to spread the Word we have heard.

God, be gracious to us and bless us, **and make your face shine on us.**

Almighty God, you are the ruler of all peoples on earth. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation. Purify our hearts to know and love your truth, and give wisdom to our leaders.

God, be gracious to us and bless us, **and make your face shine on us.**

Lord, maintain righteous government everywhere, that all things may take place in an orderly way and peace may be kept. Govern all things for the good of your people and for the spread of your gospel.

God, be gracious to us and bless us, **and make your face shine on us.**

Let your comforting Word refresh your people, especially those who suffer in mind, body or spirit [*especially...*]. Encourage all with your promise so that when you appear, we will receive an unfading crown of glory.

God, be gracious to us and bless us, **and make your face shine on us.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Listen, Lord, to the thoughts and cares of our hearts.

Silent prayer.

Almighty God, let the brightness of your glory shine on us, and let Christ, the Light from Light, shine in the hearts of all who have been born again by your grace in your Holy Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

God Bless Our Native Land *CW*²¹ 774



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may she ev - er stand
2 For her our prayers shall rise to God a - bove the skies;



thro' storm and night! When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
on him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–1883, st. 1, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–1893

Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, London, c. 1740

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