



Celebrate

Sunday, June 7, 2026
2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord’s day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God’s mercy for the world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Hosea 5:15—6:6

Because the people have trusted in military powers instead of God and have engaged in idolatrous worship practices, God decides to withdraw until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God’s face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.

I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and
seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favor:

^{6:1}“Come, let us return to the LORD,
for it is he who has torn, and he will
heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us
up.

²After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

³Let us know, let us press on to know the
LORD;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;

he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the
earth.”

⁴What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.

⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the
prophets;
I have killed them by the words of my
mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶For I desire steadfast love and not
sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than
burnt offerings.



Call up - on me in the day of trou - ble, says your God.

“Listen, my people, and I will speak:

Israel, I will bear wit- | ness against you;
for I am | God, your God.

**⁸I do not accuse you because | of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are al- | ways before me.**

⁹I will not accept a calf | from your stalls,
nor goats | from your pens;

**¹⁰for all the wild animals of the for- | est are mine,
the cattle on a | thousand hills. R**

¹¹I know every bird | of the mountains,
and the creatures of the | fields are mine.

**¹²If I were hungry, I | would not tell you,
for the whole world is mine and all | that is in it.**

¹³Do you think I eat the | flesh of bulls,
or drink the | blood of goats?

**¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to | the Most High.**

¹⁵Call upon me in the | day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall | honor me.” R

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the

father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her,

and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread through all of that district.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

God of mercy, you call us to a life filled with acts of mercy. Ground us in following Christ, that we might extend the mercy we receive. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, all you have made is yours (*local landmarks and bodies of water may be named*). Revive lands in need of healing and make us wise stewards of all you have given us to tend. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, you promise to deliver those who call on you. Bring an end to conflict, bigotry, and injustice in all their forms wherever they are found. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they mourn. Provide tenderly for those in need (*especially*). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of blessings, you send the Holy Spirit to provide varieties of gifts in the body of Christ. Accompany those who travel this summer, make our gatherings joyous, and grant us a spirit of hospitality and togetherness. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of life, we give you thanks for saints whose lives revealed your faithfulness (*like Seattle, chief of the Duwamish Confederacy, whom the church remembers today*). May remembering their faithfulness strengthen our own. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 40:1-8. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Columba, died 597; Aidan, died 651; Bede, died 735; renewers of the church) Hosea 8:11-14; 10:1-2. **Wednesday** Hosea 14:1-9. **Thursday** (Barnabas, Apostle) Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3. **Friday** Psalm 100. **Saturday** Mark 7:1-13. **Third Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379) Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23].

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