

Sunday, June 14, 2026 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

2-4 - The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."

*When have you experienced God's bearing you on eagles' wings and bringing you to Himself?
Cf. Isaiah 40: 31 – Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

When and how has God renewed your strength?

When have you been able to mount up with wings like eagles?

When have you been able to run and not be weary?

When have you needed to be satisfied with being able to walk and not faint?

When have you needed to be satisfied with just being able to keep putting one foot in front of the other?

8a - The people all answered as one: "Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do."

How are you doing at saying, "Everything the Lord has spoken I will do"?

Psalm: Psalm 100

1 - Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

Birds sing not because they have a great voice; rather birds sing because they have a song.

Do you have a song? If you do, do you sing?

3 – It is he that made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

God is our creator as well as our caregiver.

He made us, and He is watching over us.

5 – The Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever; his faithfulness to all generations.

God is good – all the time. All the time – God is good.

Cf. Lamentations 3: 22-23 – The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

1 - Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 – Through Jesus we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.

3-5 - Suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us.

When and how have you experienced suffering producing endurance, endurance producing character, and character producing hope?

God is more concerned about our character than about our comfort.

Cf. Wall-E – It is not in our best interests for everything to be comfortable and easy all the time.

6 - While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

8 - But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

10 – While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son.
What kind of people did Jesus die for? The weak, sinners, and enemies. In other words, people like us.

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8-23

9: 36 - When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

How are you doing at having compassion?

Where do you have compassion? Where do you lack compassion?

9: 37-38 - He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

What should be our first response to the shortage of laborers for the harvest, such as the extreme shortage of pastors for churches?

Many telephone calls and emails I receive from churches

NEXUS Institute of Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa

Congregational Lay Leadership Initiative

2 Timothy 2: 2 – What you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

Vs. Judges 2: 7-10 – The people worshipped the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred ten years. So they buried him. Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them, who did not know the Lord or the work that He had done for Israel."

10: 1 - Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness.

2 – These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew

3 - Matthew the tax collector – the only one whose former occupation is given

Matthew went from tax collector to follower to evangelist to disciple to apostle in less than a full chapter!

4 - Simon the Cananaean (also called Simon the Zealot), and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

5-6 – These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 – As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

8 - Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.

12-13 - As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Concept of people of peace

14 - If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town.

16 - See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

What does it mean to you to be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove?