

given him, that he even does miracles! <sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

<sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

**Sermon Hymn:** 544 Preach You the Word

**Sermon:** **Difficult Mission, Powerful Assistance**

**Offering:** *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

**Distribution Hymn:** 454 I Gave My Life for Thee

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:** 507 Lord of Our Growing Years

**Ushers:** This Week – Russ Schuld & Justin Draeger  
Next Week – Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow

**Greeters:** This Week – Paul & Vicki Milbrath  
Next Week – Larry & Patti Zastrow

## ***St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church***

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

*Pastor: Mark Swanson* Church Tel: 920-674-3307

*Principal: Craig Winkler* School Tel: 262-582-3010

*Organist: Beth Schumacher*

# We Welcome You!

**Order of Worship:** Pg. 26

**Opening Hymn:** 182 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

**Prayer of the Day:**

M: God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**First Lesson - Ezekiel 2:1-5**

*Ezekiel's experience is not the exception but the paradigm. The rejection that Jesus experienced from his own ultimately turned into hatred and bitter hostility. That was the experience of all the apostles and prophets. In fact when there is never any hostility from a rebellious and gainsaying people, either Jesus has changed his mind about persecution or we have joined the rebels! People should know that a prophet has been among them from the faithfulness of the prophet to the Word and to the Savior, whether they like the message or not. For whether they like it or not, it remains the only message that saves. It saves even in the face of persecution from those who should know better.*

<sup>1</sup> He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." <sup>2</sup> As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

<sup>3</sup> He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup> The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' <sup>5</sup> And whether they listen or fail to listen - for they are a rebellious house - they will know that a prophet has been among them.

**Psalm of the Day - Psalm 143, p. 118**

**Second Lesson - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

*In the face of opposition the preacher may be tempted to wonder what's wrong with him. Such an examination may indeed reveal that there is a lot wrong with him, that he, too, has thorns in the flesh or such things as get in the way of the message. Those thorns that God wants to remove God will remove in answer to our earnest prayer and the faithful application of his Word. But some thorns will always remain so that the messenger, whether the messenger is the pastor or the congregation itself, will always*

*have reason to ponder the truth that the success of the gospel is always due to the gospel alone. We are not thinking here of moral flaws that make the messenger a contradiction of the message or of such ineptitude that the messenger is ill suited to be a messenger. Among the thorns, at least in the context of the readings for this Sunday, could be persecution of the truth from members who say they are loyal to the truth; it could be resistance to one or more specific applications of the law that obscures the faithfulness we say we have to all of God's Word; it could be lack of time to do everything that we know needs to be done, even a lack of time that keeps us even from knowing what needs to be done; it could be persecution from a community that knows how we apply God's Word in the doctrines concerning fellowship or marriage or lodges and scouts, or creation, or "family values," or any one of a number of other things. Each pastor and congregation will have its own list of messengers of Satan who hinder the course of the gospel's proclamation.*

<sup>7</sup> To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. <sup>10</sup> That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia. (Luke 8:15)

**Gospel - Mark 6:1-6**

*It is quite bad enough when Jesus is rejected by those who do not know him. But how painful to him, so much so that in his state of humiliation he is amazed by it, when those who should have been first to recognize him instead reject him. The world, even our own so richly blessed country, exchanges the Child in Bethlehem for Santa Claus and the Risen Christ for the Easter bunny. No surprise there. But what of those in our own churches and families who think they know him so well that they no longer know him at all? He could do nothing there in Nazareth because in their unbelief; no one asked him to do anything. And in our midst? Were he still in his state of humiliation, would he be surprised at us who have had his Word for so long and still think so little of it? On the other hand, those who follow him in faithfulness have a stumbling block in their path: the unfaithfulness of those who should know better and then their ultimate hostility to the pure teaching and living of his Word. Only that Word and reliance on it gets us past that stumbling block; Jesus promised such rejection, and his Word even in that regard has proven true.*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been