

**6th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, July 9, 2023  
Pastor - Rev. Diane Dardon  
Organist/Music Director - Lori Free**

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm: Psalm 145: 8-14

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel: Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

*Response after the announcement:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Response after the conclusion:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

Hymn of the Day: **#656 Blest Be the Tie That Binds**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#777 Come To Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty**

Sending Song: **This My Church Shall Be (see insert)**

Dismissal

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS  
CELEBRATING OUR 141st YEAR  
IN HIS SERVICE  
1882 - 2023**

Rev. Dr. Diane Dardón is the Director of Religious Diversity and Pastoral Care at DePaul University in Chicago where she also serves as the university's Protestant Chaplain. Diane received her Doctorate of Ministry Degree in Ecumenism from Catholic Theological Union (Chicago) and is a graduate in the Masters of Divinity program from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Prior to taking on responsibilities at DePaul, she served for several years as parish pastor but her true ministry passion is within the academic setting, having served as campus pastor at Northern Illinois University and at the University of Northern Iowa prior to her time at DePaul. Diane is also faculty at Emmaus Accademy in Naples, FL, and recently became certified in spiritual direction. Diane's greatest joy is delighting in her Guatemalan-American family and accompanying her children as they begin their careers. Diane and her husband, Esturado, have two children: Brian who is currently in St. Louis, working as an engineer in the aerospace field at Boeing and Cathryn who is pursuing studies for a career in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity at DePaul University while also serving as an executive officer for DePaul's Student Government Association. The Dardón family enjoys travel and tries to spend time each year with Estuardo's family in Guatemala.

***We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.***

*If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.*

**All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.**

**Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School**

**Visit us at [BethanyEphraim.org](https://bethanyephrain.org),  
and follow our worship service live, and archived,  
on the web site.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word (*especially name/s*) as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 131. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540) Jeremiah 28:10-17. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931) Jeremiah 13:1-11. **Thursday** Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13. **Friday** Romans 15:14-21. **Saturday** Isaiah 52:1-6. **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

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Tracks 1 and 2



Celebrate

Sunday, July 9, 2023  
6th Sunday after Pentecost

*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

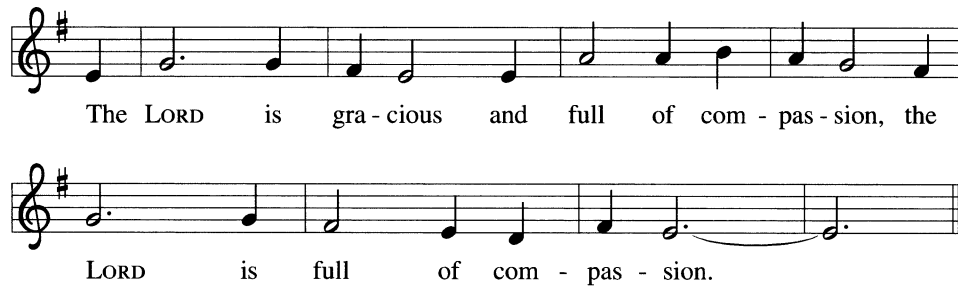
*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter  
Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from  
Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to  
the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of  
the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood  
of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from  
the waterless pit.  
<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold,  
O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to  
you double.

## Psalm

Psalm 145:8-14; refrain, Ps. 145:8



The LORD is gracious and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are <sup>1</sup> good to all,  
and your compassion is over <sup>1</sup> all your works. R**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
and your faithful <sup>1</sup> ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory <sup>1</sup> of your kingdom  
and speak <sup>1</sup> of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know <sup>1</sup> of your power  
and the glorious splendor <sup>1</sup> of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your dominion endures through- <sup>1</sup> out all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,  
and loving in <sup>1</sup> all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD upholds all <sup>1</sup> those who fall  
and lifts up those who <sup>1</sup> are bowed down. R

## Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer

I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

## Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:]  
“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>“We played the flute for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not  
mourn.”

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and

earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”