

# Worship Plan - Church Year A

## 2022-2023



Second Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 5) - 6/11/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***THE HOLY MINISTRY***

“Ministry” simply means “service.” Throughout history, God has called individuals to serve God’s people by sharing God’s Word. Many today feel they do not need to be part of a church, do not need Christian preaching and teaching. “I can be a believer without any of that.” Well, if that is true, then why does Jesus’ bother to keep calling ministers to share his gospel: pastors, teachers, missionaries, etc.? Clearly, Jesus himself believes ministry is necessary. He knows what we need better than we do.

We call it “holy ministry” because the Holy Spirit does his work through his ministers. As ministers proclaim God’s Word, the Spirit unleashes his power. We also call it “holy ministry” because through gospel ministry our faith is sustained, which is what makes us holy in God’s eyes. Our worship for the next three weeks follows this path:

Second Sunday after Pentecost – The Holy Ministry Is Filled with Sinners Called by God

Third Sunday after Pentecost – The Holy Ministry Demonstrates Compassion for God’s People

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – The Holy Ministry Preaches Christ Despite Persecution

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***THE HOLY MINISTRY IS FILLED WITH SINNERS CALLED BY GOD***

They never forgot their past. Moses never forgot how, in a fit of anger, he killed a man. Paul never forgot how he had savaged the Church of God, overseeing the persecution and execution of Christians around Jerusalem. Matthew never forgot how, as a tax collector for the Roman Empire, he was distained as a swindler and traitor to his people. These men never forgot their past.

But God did. God forgave them all their sins and called them into gospel ministry. The holy ministry is not filled with perfect people. The holy ministry is filled with sinners whom God has called out of his boundless mercy. The holy ministry is God’s gift to the Church. But it is also God’s gift to ministers, who certainly do not deserve the privilege of being God’s public servants. God calls sinful and weak individuals into the ministry, so that as his kingdom advances, we give credit where credit is due—to the Holy Spirit.

#### **FIRST READING**

\*\*\*Exodus 3:1-15 – Moses asked a good question: “Who am I to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.” Answer: the one the LORD himself had chosen for that holy ministry.

#### **SECOND READING**

1 Timothy 1:12-27 – To demonstrate mercy and patience, God called the Paul, the self-identified “worst of sinners,” into the holy ministry.

#### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 9:9-13 – Jews considered tax collectors to be among the worst of sinners. To demonstrate grace, Jesus called one of them to be his disciple.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 2

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

738 - The Son of God, Our Christ

### **Psalm of the Day:**

119C

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Matthew 9:12,13

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 2

### **Hymn of the Day:**

578 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

575 - By Grace I'm Saved

or

710 - Beneath the Cross

### **Closing Hymn:**

615 - Jesus, Thank You

or

896 - Dear Lord, To Your True Servants Give

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

615 - Jesus, Thank You

710 - Beneath the Cross

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

## Worship Plan - Church Year A 2022-2023



Third Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 6) - 6/18/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***THE HOLY MINISTRY***

“Ministry” simply means “service.” Throughout history, God has called individuals to serve God’s people by sharing God’s Word. Many today feel they do not need to be part of a church, do not need Christian preaching and teaching. “I can be a believer without any of that.” Well, if that is true, then why does Jesus’ bother to keep calling ministers to share his gospel: pastors, teachers, missionaries, etc.? Clearly, Jesus himself believes ministry is necessary. He knows what we need better than we do.

We call it “holy ministry” because the Holy Spirit does his work through his ministers. As ministers proclaim God’s Word, the Spirit unleashes his power. We also call it “holy ministry” because through gospel ministry our faith is sustained, which is what makes us holy in God’s eyes.

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### ***THE HOLY MINISTRY DEMONSTRATES COMPASSION FOR GOD'S PEOPLE***

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them” (Matthew 9:36). The Greek word translated “compassion” refers to a type of love that almost overwhelms one’s emotions. Imagine a father looking at his little girl lying in a hospital bed near death. The father’s heart aches. That father would allow the surgeon to cut any organ out of him, without anesthesia, and transplant it into his daughter, if that’s what it took to save his little girl’s life. That’s the idea behind the Greek word for “compassion.” Jesus looks at the people and is willing to do anything for them—to make any sacrifice, even the ultimate one at the cross.

In that same compassion, the Lord of the Church raises up ministers. As those ministers share his grace and mercy, Christ saves eternal lives. More, he fills those ministers with his Spirit, so that they also feel compassion for God’s people.

### **FIRST READING**

Numbers 27:15-23 – Moses’ life and ministry were coming to an end. God in compassion for his people had Moses appoint Joshua to take his place.

### **SECOND READING**

1 Corthnians 4:1-7 – The congregation in Corinth was troubled and divided. Paul wrote them, not out of anger, but out of compassion—not to shame them, but to warn them.

### **GOSPEL**

\*\*\*Matthew 9:35-10:8 – Jesus had compassion on the people, and he appointed the twelve to demonstrate compassion through their holy ministry.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 2

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

716 - O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

### **Psalm of the Day:**

100A or 100B

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Matthew 9:38

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 2

### **Hymn of the Day:**

897 - Lord Jesus, You Have Come

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

736 - Lord, You Call Us as Your People

### **Closing Hymn:**

735 - Before You I Kneel

or

927:1,2 - Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

736 - Lord, You Call Us as Your People

735 - Before You I Kneel

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**

# Worship Plan - Church Year A

## 2022-2023



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7) - 6/25/2023

### **SERIES THEME**

#### ***THE HOLY MINISTRY***

“Ministry” simply means “service.” Throughout history, God has called individuals to serve God’s people by sharing God’s Word. Many today feel they do not need to be part of a church, do not need Christian preaching and teaching. “I can be a believer without any of that.” Well, if that is true, then why does Jesus’ bother to keep calling ministers to share his gospel: pastors, teachers, missionaries, etc.? Clearly, Jesus himself believes ministry is necessary. He knows what we need better than we do.

We call it “holy ministry” because the Holy Spirit does his work through his ministers. As ministers proclaim God’s Word, the Spirit unleashes his power. We also call it “holy ministry” because through gospel ministry our faith is sustained, which is what makes us holy in God’s eyes.

### **THEME OF THE DAY**

#### **THE HOLY MINISTRY PREACHES CHRIST DESPITE PERSECUTION**

From its birth the New Testament Church has been persecuted. The religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to stamp it out, but they only succeeded in spreading Christianity throughout Judea and Samaria. The Roman Empire persecuted Christians with stakes and lions, yet God’s Church exploded with growth in those early centuries. In Martin Luther’s day, both pope and emperor sought to stop the gospel movement that was spreading from Germany. But God was a mighty fortress for the Church.

Still today the Church is persecuted. Every day thirteen Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith. Another twelve are arrested or imprisoned simply because they profess faith in Christ Jesus. In the U.S. we have freedom of religion enshrined as a constitutional right, but that is no guarantee for a life free of persecution. Until Judgment Day, some will attempt to shout down the truth of Christ. We will be persecuted. That won’t stop us. The holy ministry preaches Christ despite persecution. Christ never promised his Church that ministry would operate unopposed. But he did promise to give courage to his witnesses.

*Note: June 25th is also the date for the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. Simply by using that historical account for an illustration, one could easily incorporate that into this broader theme about persecution of the Church.*

### **FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 20:7-13 – For prophesying God’s truth Jeremiah had been beaten and put in stocks. Yet Jeremiah refused to remain silent.

### **SECOND READING**

\*\*\*2 Timothy 4:1-8 – Paul taught that many people in this world cannot bear sound doctrine. Instead, they persecute it.

### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33 – Jesus guaranteed that when we carry out gospel ministry in his name, there will be many that hate us for it.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### **Conservative:**

Setting 2

### **Ambitious:**

### **Opening Hymn:**

621 - Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

### **Psalm of the Day:**

91

### **Gospel Acclamation Proper Verse:**

Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia.

### **Gospel Acclamation setting:**

Setting 2

### **Hymn of the Day:**

823 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

### **Third Hymn or Distribution Hymn:**

\*797 - I Know My Faith Is Founded

### **Closing Hymn:**

884 - Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

### **Optional New Hymns, perhaps requiring advance preparation/cantors:**

911 - God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises

894 - We Praise the Christ for Martyred Saints

### **Notes for the conservative service:**

894 requires introduction

### **Notes for the ambitious service:**