

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year B July 11, 2021
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

Those with clean hands and pure hearts are acceptable to God. May we be found worthy to ascend the hill of the Lord and stand in God's presence.

***SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 1:3-14

*** OPENING HYMN: # 719**..... My Lord, What a Morning

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are sent into the world to be witnesses of God's love and power.

People: What shall we take with us that all might know who sent us?

Leader: The witness of God's love and mercy and grace in our lives.

People: Will that be enough as others offer the things of the world?

Leader: There is no greater message than that of God's love that made us whole.

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*** Let us pray (Congregation):**

Almighty and loving God, your mercy and grace are seldom more clearly seen than when you allow the wicked people of this world to kill off your prophets. Help us to start listening, Lord. In Christ we pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

338 Where He Leads Me

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

Lord, so often we have received your restoring word but feared to pass it on. Too often we have only received your life-changing good news and failed also to be your messengers, or we have accepted your blessings and ignored the responsibilities to share your love with the world. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to witness boldly of your love today. In Christ we pray. Amen.

*** LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:**

174..... His Name Is Wonderful

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Ps 24, Eph 1)

Lift up the gates of your spirits, that the king of glory may come in and bless you with mercy and grace.

***SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 6:14-29

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: "The Cost of Integrity"

*** RESPONSE TO THE WORD: # 402** Lord I Want to Be a Christian

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

Let us pray: **The Lord's Prayer**

*** PRAYER HYMN: # 2200** O Lord, Hear My Prayer

*** CLOSING HYMN: # 666**..... Shalom to You

*** DISMISSAL BLESSING**

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1st Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14 (NKJV)

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He ^[a]made us accepted in the Beloved.

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and ^[b]prudence, ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, ^[c]both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who ^[d]is the ^[e]guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

2nd Scripture Reading: Mark 6:14-29 (NKJV)

⁴Now King Herod heard *of Him*, for His name had become well known. And he said, “John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.”

¹⁵Others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is ^[a]the Prophet, or like one of the prophets.”

¹⁶But when Herod heard, he said, “This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!” ¹⁷For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her. ¹⁸Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”

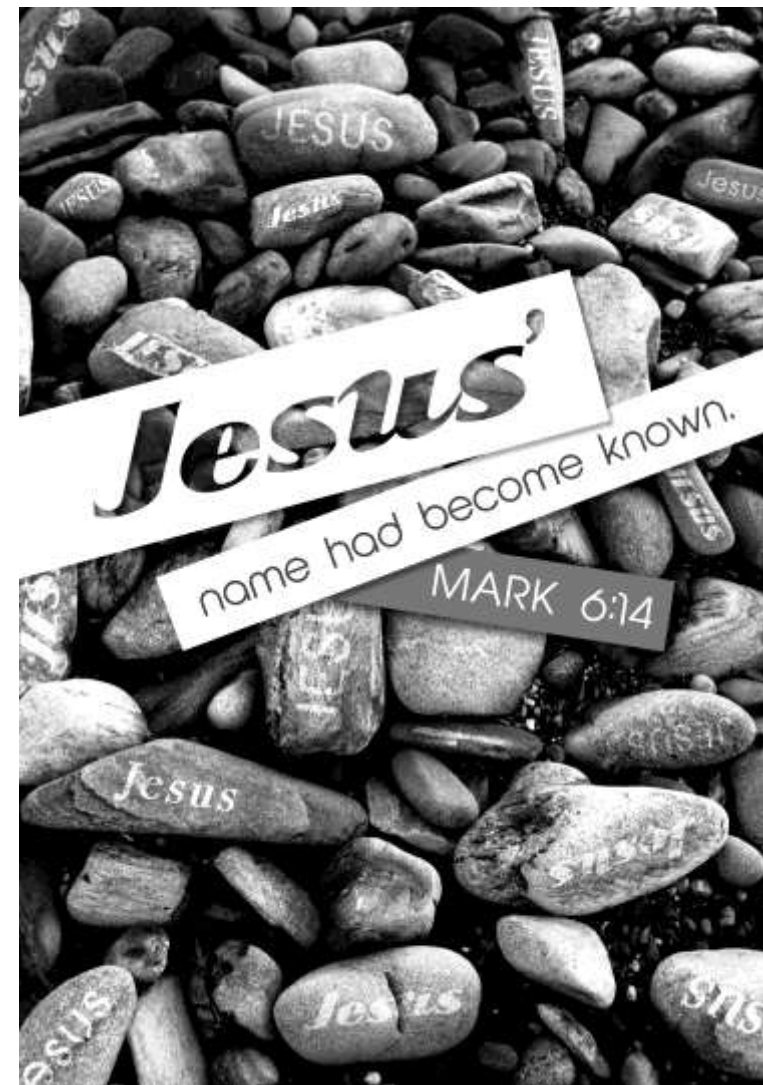
¹⁹Therefore Herodias ^[b]held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he *was* a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he ^[c]did many things, and heard him gladly.

²¹Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief *men* of Galilee. ²²And when Herodias’ daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, “Ask me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you.” ²³He also swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom.”

²⁴So she went out and said to her mother, “What shall I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist!”

²⁵Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry; *yet*, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard *of it*, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.



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LeRoy United Methodist Church

A Community Church: Moving Forward

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