

Proper 7 Sunday

Gathering

Call to Worship

You are with us, O God, whatever happens;
**in the storms of life, when we do not know where to turn,
You are there.**

You are with us, O God, whatever happens;
**in the wonderful days, when life dances and sings,
You are there.**

You are with us, O God, whatever happens;
**as we make the choice that reflects our Christian calling,
You are there.**

You are with us, O God, whatever happens;
**in the community of faith, as we worship and risk with others,
You are there.
Whatever happens, You are with us, O Most Caring God!**

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach

**Holy God of new life,
who led the Israelites out of Egypt:**

**Help us to remember our baptism,
so that we can rise again in Jesus and be freed from sin.**

We ask in the name of the Holy Spirit, who carries our prayers to You. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Open our hearts, O God, in thanksgiving for all Your many blessings.

We present our gifts to help those who are suffering and downtrodden in this neighborhood and in other parts of the nation and world. With them we present our willingness to be partners in the work Your Holy Spirit will accomplish with them.

Our gifts will accomplish more than we could ever imagine.

God be praised! Amen.

Listening

Children's Time

Reading: [Exodus 14:19-31](#) (*The Message*)

Moses leads the Israelites to the edge of Egypt, and is trapped between the Red Sea and the army of the Pharaoh. How did God intervene to save Their chosen people?

Questions

1. What part of the Exodus story did you like the best?
2. What part was most important?
3. What part could we leave out, and still have all the story we need?
4. What part could you relate to?

Sermon

Reading: [Romans 6:1-11](#) (NRSV)

Paul writes to the Jews living in Rome about how they are freed from sin, and what this means for them. But how is this freedom linked to our baptism? And what does it mean that our baptism is linked to Israel's Exodus from Egypt?

Questions

1. What is meant by justification?
 2. What does it mean to be 'baptized into Christ Jesus?'
 3. Does God's grace mean we can do what we want?
 4. How do you see sin manifest in the world?
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Serving

Prayers for Community

Refrain:

To be a follower of Jesus is a tough calling.

We will take the rough with smooth.

Closing Hymn

"The Summons"

Benediction

Soar with the birds, have done with anxiety!

We will leave our worries behind us.

Reach for the clouds, dismiss your fears!

We will replace our fears with opportunities.

Fly beyond the limits, forget your failures!

We will use our failures as stepping stones to success.

Rise to the skies, have done with self-doubt!

Confident and assured, we will go about Christ's work.