

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Quincy, IL
Rev. Martin Eden

Pentecost 4
Saturday, July 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

“Here am I, Send Me”

Luke 10:1-20

The Lord has sent you out “like lambs among wolves.” Last week, in our Epistle reading, we were reminded that those who are ruled by the sinful nature will not treat us with patience or kindness. Christ and His message of forgiveness have always been despised and rejected in this world.

But here in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that “The harvest is plentiful.” It is the workers that are few. And that we should pray to the Lord to give us strength to go out among the unbelievers and share the message of God’s forgiveness and salvation, even though we do so as lambs among wolves.

It is every Christian’s right, duty, and privilege to share and to bear witness of what Christ our Lord has done for us. The Greek word for witness is “marturion” from which we get the word “martyr.” When we speak of martyrs, we speak of those who were killed on account of their faith. They were witnesses.

As we celebrate the freedom we have here in our nation around this time of year, one of the greatest privileges is that we can freely assemble, freely speak, and do so in the relative security of and share the message of God’s goodness with the other people in our lives. In the hymn we just sang, the second verse says, “If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell

the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.”

You do not have to be an eloquent speaker to share the Gospel. In fact, the apostle Paul, by his own admission, was not even that eloquent of a man. It was Apollos who was the great eloquent, polished preacher of the early church.

But Paul had something that made him the most effective preacher in the history of Christ’s church. He had the Word of God in his heart and on his lips. It was the power of the Word that made Paul’s evangelism effective. Christ says in our text, “He who listens to you, listens to Me.”

The 72 evangelists that Christ sent out were not specially trained people. They were believers, just like you. They had been baptized. They had received God’s forgiveness. And like Paul, they had the Word of God in their hearts and on their lips, and they had the heart of an evangelist. They wanted to share God’s Word.

Today the Church needs people willing to share the Word of God. And if you have an unchurched neighbor or friend, or a spiritually delinquent family member; who is going to tell them about God’s forgiveness? Who is going to tell them that Christ suffered and died for their sins if you don’t?

Sending you as workers out into the harvest does not have to mean that we engage in some elaborate evangelism program of the entire town. Being a worker in the harvest field is to live your life as an example for others and to be prepared to share God’s Word “in season and out of season” – as Scripture says.

Being a worker in the harvest field is to treat the people you meet with patience, kindness, and forgiveness. Show the people of Quincy that the church is not some self-righteous social club. That is precisely what many of the

unchurched feel we are – not just our congregation, but all churches.

If you allow yourself to be ruled by God's patience, God's kindness, and God's forgiveness, the people who know you but do not know the Lord will eventually ask you, "What makes your life different from mine? Why don't things bother you the way that they bother me? Why don't you get angry when certain things happen? What do you have that I don't have?" They may not say those exact words, but the sentiment will be there.

Those are the times in our lives for which we need to be prepared. When opportunities arise where a person is open to the message of the Gospel, you need to take that opening. You need to take that opportunity to tell them of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and the forgiveness of sins that He has won for us all. And you can certainly invite them to join us here at Our Redeemer where they will hear of these things

Be confident in your own faith. Know that the Word of God gives you strength and makes your words effective in the lives of the people around you. You need to be confident of your own forgiveness. Know that Christ has already paid the ransom price for your sin with His blood on the cross and has guaranteed eternal life to each one of you.

Now is not the time to have a weak spirit. Now is the time to prepare yourselves to share God's message of forgiveness with the people in your life, with those whom God has placed in your path. Speaking to people on a personal basis is not always easy. But when you do talk to someone about your faith in God, know that the strength of your message comes from God's Word. We do not rely on our own ability, and we can't rely on our own ability. We do

not have anything to offer anyone except the Word of God.

Christ said, “He who listens to you listens to Me; he who rejects you rejects Me.” We are only messengers. Don’t be afraid to share that message with your neighbors, friends, and family. It is extremely important. It truly is a matter of life and death.

Rejoice that you have already been called to faith, brought to life in Christ, and that you no longer need to fear death and the power of the devil. Have confidence in that message of promise. Share that message of salvation.

We join in the task of all Christians who have gone before us. Just as Christ sent those 72 faithful out to prepare the people for His coming, we join in the task of preparing those whom God has placed in our path for Christ to come. Christ is returning again. We don’t know when. It could be in your lifetime. It could be in your children’s lifetime. He may not return for another thousand years. Or He may return tomorrow.

Because He may return tomorrow, there is a sense of urgency on our part to take advantage of the opportunities to share the Gospel. For the sake of those you love, don’t miss that opportunity.

Our first order of business in this life is that we need to be prepared for Christ’s coming, but the Lord has also sent us out into the harvest fields to prepare others. Be prepared. Have confidence in your faith. “Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Have confidence in God’s forgiveness. Have the heart of an evangelist, and share the Good News of salvation.

As we sang in the hymn: “Answer quickly when He calleth, ‘Here am I send me, send me.’” Amen.