

Sunday, June 7, 2026 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Hosea 5:15--6:6

5: 15 - I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

6: 1-2 - "Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him."

It has been said that God breaks us in all the right places.

When has God broken you so that He could restore you stronger and/or more willing to live in line with His will?

When has He torn you so that He could heal you?

How did you feel about the experience at the time? How do you see it now?

I am reminded of Romans 1, where it says three times (in verses 24, 26, and 28) that "God gave them up" – to the lusts of their hearts, to degrading passions, to a debased mind, and to things that should not be done.

There are times when God will "give a person up" to the direction in which that person insists on going, but always with the intent and hope that the person will repent, return, and live.

Cf. Luke 15: 13 where the father allowed the son to leave for the distant country.

4 - What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early.

This verse shows the heart of God, who is grieving over how we live and what we have done.

Just like Hosea grieved over the unfaithfulness of his wife Gomer.

When have you most grieved the heart of God?

How did you feel and experience His love even then?

Psalm: Psalm 50:7-15

10-12 - All the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.

This is a good response to the person who says, "I guess I had better put something in the offering. I guess God needs my money."

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

17 - The God in whom he believed gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

What greater things could God do than that – give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist?

18 - Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations."

19 - He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

Abram was seventy-five years old when God promised him that He would make of him a great nation and he left Haran and went to the land that God would show him (Genesis 12: 4). He was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born (after he and Sarai felt that they needed to "help God out") (Genesis 16: 16). He was ninety-nine years old when God changed his name to Abraham and told him that Sarah would have a child (Genesis 17: 1). He was a hundred years old when Isaac was born (Genesis 21: 5).

20-21 - No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Cf. Hebrews 11: 11 – By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised.

*Are you fully convinced that God is able to do what He has promised?
How does the life and example of Abraham help you?
In what area of your life do you most struggle with believing that God can and will do what He has promised?*

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

9 - As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

10 - And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.

I believe that this was Matthew's house. He must have had a big house because "many tax collectors and sinners came."

Matthew wanted his tax collector friends to meet Jesus.

Who would be most effective at inviting tax collectors to meet Jesus but a former tax collector?

Who are the people whom you could be most effective at reaching for Jesus?

11-13 - When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

People need to meet Jesus – even people whom we do not approve of.

Is there any person or group of persons that you would have a hard time having attend your church?

18-19 - While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

Mark 5 and Luke 8 tell us his name – Jairus. And in those Gospels the daughter has not yet died but is at the point of death (Mark) or is dying (Luke).

How do you feel about the fact that the Holy Spirit does not seem bothered by these differences in the accounts?

When have you most been like Jairus? You went to Jesus, because, really, you had nowhere else to go?