

## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

June 6, 2021

**Collect:** O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Lessons:** Old Testament: Genesis 3:8-15

Psalm: 138

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

**The Sermon:** Good morning, it is good to be in the house of the Lord again. It is also good to be worshipping and praising him after a year of the church being closed because of the Covid Virus. Imagine the Church as the Valley of Dry Bones. The words of God will be spoken and the Church, just like the dry bones, will begin to move and to live. Instead of the rattling of bones there will be singing and praising as the Church opens its doors and invites its people in, The Church is alive, let us praise God!

In today's Gospel, Jesus has taught and preached at the synagogue where he healed a man with a withered arm. The religious authorities were angry with him because he had healed the man on the Sabbath. Jesus asked them, "Is it evil to do good on the Sabbath?" The authorities then began to plot against him.

There were many people, men and women, following Jesus because he was healing and casting out demons. Some of the demons, when they saw him,

would fall at his feet and loudly call him the Son of God. But he insisted that they not do this, he did not want to become known.

From the crowd that followed him, this Gospel of Mark, says that he now chose 12 specific men as his companions and disciples. These 12 men would now help him in his ministry and carry on his work after his death.

Today's Gospel finds Jesus at a house with people crowding around. They want to be healed and they push to see and get to him. The religious authorities are angry that the people are seeking him and they declare he is driving out demons because he is Satan, the devil.

Jesus asks them how can Satan fight against himself and drive out Satan? If that is so he will not survive and that will be the end of him.

The Collect says that all good proceeds from God. The religious authorities didn't believe that Jesus was good because they didn't know him or accept what he was teaching. They were the teachers and priests who taught the people about God. Now this new rabbi comes along and he is teaching somethings that is new. And because he is also healing, they begin to accept his teaching and follow him.

It can be difficult to hear of new things or accept new ways of doing things. There will be those who will fight against changes and try to stop them. It may not matter that the changes are better, the fight is that they are different. And people may say, "We have always done it this way!"

When Jesus had come to this house, in today's Gospel, he expected to rest and eat. Instead, the crowd appeared wanting healing. Some people saw this and went to tell the family of Jesus where he was.

Because what he was doing and teaching was different, some thought he had lost his mind. They wanted his family to come get him and take him to their house and take care of him. When his mother and brothers got to the house, they sent a message to him. They wanted him to come out and go with them. People in the crowd even told him, your mother and brothers are here, they wanted to stop him.

But Jesus asked who is my mother and who are my brothers? Jesus then said, "Anyone who does the will of God is my mother, my sister and my brother." Jesus is saying, this is where I belong and that anyone who does good is my family.

People of St. Matthew's and San Mateo, we too are the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Verse 4 of Psalm 138 tells us that when we call on the Lord, he will answer us and increase the strength within us. And because we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus, he will increase our faith and allow us to do many good things. Amen.

Rev. Lionel Starkes