



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 3 **June 14, 2026**

Prayer of the Day

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord. Amen.

This passage from Matthew maybe unfamiliar for you. You are correct. Why you might ask? Let me tell you!

It turns out; the readings for the Pentecost season are determined by the date on which Easter falls, and so we haven't had a chance to hear this passage for nearly a decade!; which explains why.

It is good to be back in the narrative according to St. Matthew. The season of Easter, the time before Pentecost and Holy Trinity drew heavily from John's Gospel. We find ourselves today relatively early on in Matthew's account of Jesus, just after the Sermon on the Mount as he

sends out his disciples into the world which in itself is rather apropos as a helpful introduction to the summer/Pentecost emphasis to be sent out into ministry to grow the church. Hence, the colour green for the time following Pentecost Sunday.

Sitting at the computer screen this week, these words spoke to me:

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (9:36)

The folks gathered around Jesus were harassed and helpless. The description is the point. I get that and no doubt you know the feeling as well. And equally to the point is the description of the motivation behind all that is going to place in the rest of Matthew’s story of Jesus’ ministry, *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them.”*

How many of us also feel harassed and helpless? I can think of a young parent at his or her wits end, feeling ill-equipped for their role, guilty about responding in impatience or anger to their child?

The person in a mid-life transition or crisis relating to a lost job? Those folks coping with the death of a spouse, sibling, or friend? Those whose relationships with their parents or children are simply not what they’d imagined? Those who feel they are seen and dismissed, because of their age, gender or ethnic background? The young people recently graduated from high school this month and see no clear future before them in Pembroke, the County of Renfrew or beyond? The retirees who wonder if they are valued?

I have bought many of these tee shirts myself and probably you have as well. Feeling harassed and helpless is not a sign of failure but of being human.

And here’s the thing, being truthful about being harassed and helpless opens the door to hearing the second truth of this passage: that Jesus sees us and has compassion! Jesus did not come primarily to teach or inspire, let alone to judge, but rather out of the abundant compassion of God for the world and in order to demonstrate that loving compassion through word and deed.

These two truths go together. The first – the truth about our situation and need – opens us to hearing and being transformed by the second – the truth about God’s loving response. Indeed, without the honesty of the first, the second would be, at best, pleasantly irrelevant (“Thanks but no thanks for your compassion, Jesus, but I’m doing just fine.”) and, at worse, offensive (“Who says I need your compassion, anyway? – I’ve got it all together, thank you very much!”). And that is what the world teaches us: to have it all together, to be perfect, to have the ideal life and job and family. In many ways it is crushing the life out of each us.

So perhaps it is time to share these two truths. First, that we don’t actually have it all together or lead the perfect lives and probably are sick and tired of pretending we do, so that we can hear, the second, that Jesus didn’t come for perfect people, that the church has never been made up of perfect people, that it’s ok – indeed, incredibly helpful! – to admit that we all feel at times harassed and helpless, and that’s exactly why God came in Jesus in the first place and continues to come in the preaching of the church: to tell us that God loves not the persons

we're trying to be or have promised to be or want to be, but the ones we are. God loves you just the way you are!

My friends in Christ. I recall speaking to a group of people and my passion about the church started to spill over. My colleague said to the group, "I have heard Bruce use this phrase quite often; the church being a safe place to come." It has always been my goal to ensure the church is a safe place for our children – you have heard me speak of this when I walk with a newly baptized child down the aisle. But today, I am thinking about you – you in the pew. And so this is my promise to you that this church is a safe place for you to come where you can admit being harassed and helpless so that you can hear and feel once again Jesus' profound compassion – whether it is found in a prayer, a song, the silence or the listening ear of a friend. It is my hope that you will find peace and compassion from God's gift, God's blessings – in the people sent to you. Why? Because you are special. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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STTLC COMMUNIQUE

In Our Prayers Today.....Trevor Thurlow, Marie Lenser, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

Congregational Council has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, June 28th, 2026 following the service. Purpose is to discuss calling a pastor with St. Peter's Alice and Grace Rankin. Copy of the motion and information can be found in the narthex of the church. Please plan to attend.

Ministerial Acts

Marriage –

Megan Brum and Elyjah Scott – June 6, 2026.

Funeral –

Russel Schroeder – June 9, 2026. Age 90.