

Pentecost 2 (Proper 5)

June 7, 2026



PROCLAMATION POINTS

The following are some thoughts and questions to be used for a text study on the weekly lessons, or for jump-starting the imagination of the preacher and hearer in preparing for the proclamation event.

What comes by the works of the law is thus disfavor rather than grace. Therefore faith alone must obtain the grace promised to Abraham, for these examples too were written for our sakes [Rom. 15:4], that we too should believe.

– Martin Luther –

Word and Sacrament I, LW 35:374

Hosea 5:15–6:6

Our reading begins with the final verse in chapter 5. In the previous verses, God has warned the people of Israel and Judah about the consequences that accompany idolatry. The people were placing their trust in false gods like Ba'al or in foreign kings. Sadly, the people may have been searching for God in these false gods, but they were only going to come up empty-handed and disappointed, to say the least. We, too, fall into the same temptation. Certainly we are God's children, called, gathered, sanctified, and enlightened through the Holy Spirit, but we can become too comfortable with the world's teachings and lose sight of God and his teachings. So in verse 15, God says that he will move away from the people of Israel and Judah, and he will wait. He will wait for them to sincerely come seeking God with repentant hearts, acknowledging their sinfulness in placing their trust in idols instead of God.

- *Have you ever felt like God was “far away” from you? What did that feel like?*

God may have “moved away” from the people of Israel and Judah, but he was waiting patiently for them to return to him. God is never really “far away” from us. The words of Absolution and promise of forgiveness always place God close to us.

- *Have you ever sensed God's presence closely with you in the words of Absolution or the promises spoken in the Sacraments? Did that reassure you that God is closer than we often realize or want to admit?*

Hosea's pleas fall on deaf ears. We are at risk for the same to happen to us. God continues to call all his children to repentance.

- *Hosea begs and pleads with Ephraim and Judah to return to the Lord, to repent of their sinfulness. How is their repentance considered “false repentance”?*
- *What does God desire more than any sacrifice? From where should such a sacrifice or offering come?*

Psalms 119:65–72

The psalmist speaks of going through trials and dealing with afflictions. He sees these as a means of restoring him to God's Word and bringing humility about him.

- *When has affliction or life's trials humbled you? How has that restored you to God's Word?*
- *The psalmist states it was “good” that he was afflicted. Was it good that you were afflicted? Why or why not?*

Romans 4:13–25

So often we are tempted to give our own works and merits credit and a role in our salvation. However, that diverts from the truth that salvation is God's work, not ours. It is Jesus Christ, and him alone, who saves us apart from our works. Our good works and deeds are simply done in response to what God has already done for us.

God promised that Abraham would be the father to many nations. Abraham trusted God and did not doubt, even though he was very old and Sarah was barren. Faith might be strong, and it might be weak. But even the smallest amount of faith (smaller than the size of a mustard seed) can justify the sinful believer because of what Jesus Christ has done.

- *When have you been tempted to doubt God's promises? How did God strengthen your faith and assure you of his promises?*

Not only are we heirs of Abraham, we are heirs of faith – the same faith Abraham had.

- *How does this same faith get passed down through our own descendants?*
- *How have you played a role in passing on the faith in Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead?*

Matthew 9:9–13

Local rulers, along with the Romans, bestowed the right to collect taxes. Local tax collectors would then charge a fee on top of the taxes they collected. For this reason, many did not trust tax collectors. Additionally, tax collectors were considered by most to be dishonest and greedy because they abused the above practice.

- *How might most people react to Jesus eating a meal in a formal setting with tax collectors?*
- *What is significant about Jesus calling Matthew to be one of his twelve disciples?*

Pharisees were teachers of the Law. Their interpretation of and strict observance of the Jewish Law set them apart from other Jews.

- *What would have been the Pharisees' intentions of asking the disciples why Jesus chooses to eat with tax collectors and sinners?*
- *What does Jesus mean when he says, “Those who are well have no need of a physician” (v. 12)?*
- *What is the significance of Jesus' command to the Pharisees to “go and learn what this means” (v. 13)?*