

[Music] It's kind of fun.

I'm getting acquainted with not only the stuffies that you brought, but the ones that we have in the back.

So I might have to do a little rooting around and see if I can find one to be a companion and come up there.

Oh, you laugh now.

What if I did?

Wouldn't that be weird?

Had a stuffie with me as I read and preached and stuff.

So summer protocol, right?

It is warm.

Thank you for having fans and everything going.

When we do parts of the service where you're used to standing, if it's just too hot to do that, standing will be optional.

I see some of you have brought water.

Good.

If not, I think if you need to make a run to the kitchen, there is some bottled water back there, isn't there?

So the word of the day will be comfort.

And I have a feeling we want to talk about punch, right?

[inaudible] Punch and treats after church.

Well, there's an incentive right there just to soldier through the hot day.

So I will say a little bit about the theme of the day, and that is that as we are in Mark's gospel, people continually scratch their heads about what Jesus is up to.

But Mark also introduces us to the disciples and the job they have.

So we'll talk about that job today as part of our worship together. [music] [music]  
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Jesus left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded.

They said, "Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands?

Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James, and Joseph, and Judas, and Simon?

And aren't all of his sisters with him?"

And they took offense.

Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house."

And Jesus could do no deed of power there except he did lay his hands on a few sick people and healed them, and he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then Jesus went about among the village's teaching.

He called the twelve and began to send them out, two by two, and gave them authority over unclean spirits.

He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff.

No bread, no bag, no money in their belts, but to wear sandals and not even to put on two tunics.

And Jesus said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place.

If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them."

And so they went out and they proclaimed that all should repent, and they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick, and they cured them, the gospel of our Lord.

Grace to you and peace.

A picture being one of those followers.

You've watched Jesus get rejected, the push back against him, and then Jesus says, "Your turn."

Boy, I don't know if that's very stout recruiting, but the disciples went.

It's striking though what their job was, not what you would expect.

It wasn't a recruitment drive, it wasn't to build buildings, it wasn't even to impose a political agenda.

But it was to go to win the hearts and the minds of people, to connect with those who were sick and suffering and to heal.

Ah, but that was them.

What does that have to do with us?

I'm here to tell you plenty.

In fact, I'm going to throw the book at you.

Well, no, instead I'm going to make you open the book.

How about that?

To the front of the hymnals, page 237, each of us in our baptism was given essentially the same job that the disciples were given.

And I think it's the job that reflects the person who commissions us, Jesus.

So, at baptism we say these words as people affirm their baptism, whether they are finishing a confirmation program or grown-ups, or even congregations if they want to, on certain occasions can do this.

So, if you're at page 237, I'm going to read to you these words.

We have made public profession of our baptism.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism, to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I'm going to leave it there because I don't know if I want to pressure you into any kind of a response just yet.

So, I'm going to go back to the prayer we already prayed because I think that probably is apt.

God of the Covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom.

Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

[Music] [Music]