

About Pentecost 4 (June 19-25 – Proper 7)
Theme: God's Way Is Not the Human Way
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

God reveals Himself to whomever He desires (Isaiah). His choices can be surprising. What is clear is that He is a righteous God who demands perfection. Our human predicament is that we fallen human beings cannot even begin to keep God's righteous demands (Galatians). Therefore, standing before a holy God is impossible for sinful human beings. That is why salvation cannot be effected on the basis of the Law. Only God is able to defeat all our enemies, including death itself (Psalm 3). With a simple word, He is able both to destroy and to make alive (Luke). His decisions cross over all sorts of boundaries, and His choices include all sorts of people. The faithful, to whom God has given the gift of faith, rejoice in their inclusion.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday	Isaiah 65:1-9 Why do people hide from God? What does God do in response? Why? How does the analogy about grape juice describe God's actions? What does this mean?
Monday	Galatians 3:23—4:7 What is the purpose of God's Law? Does it serve any purpose for those who have faith? How so (or not)? How does the inheritance analogy help one understand this? What does this mean for us today?
Tuesday	Luke 8:26-39 Where is Jesus on this occasion? Why is this significant? Who does the speaking, the man or the demon possessing the man? What does this mean? Why does Jesus send the demon into the herd of pigs? ...the result? What were the consequences for the owners of the pigs? What might have been their resulting feelings toward Jesus? What does this mean?
Wednesday	Psalm 3 Why does David bemoan his situation? Why does he not simply give up? From whom does David's deliverance come? What about our own deliverance? What does this mean?
Thursday	1 Kings 19:9b-21 Why was Elijah frustrated and frightened? What were the odds for the success of the LORD's cause as far as he was concerned? What was God's solution? How far off were Elijah's statistics? When was the last time you thought life was hopeless? What hope continually belongs to those whom the LORD loves? What does this mean?
Friday	Galatians 5:1, 13-25 What unique freedom belongs to all who are in Christ? How could this freedom be destructive? To what constructive use should Christian freedom be put? What is the summary of the entire law of God? What is the end result of infighting among Christians? How can this be avoided?
Saturday	Luke 9:51-62 Where was Jesus headed? Why? How did Jesus challenge the man who volunteered to follow Him? How does the Kingdom of God transcend all earthly obligations? Where do you regularly come into contact with the Kingdom of God? What therefore ought to be your chief priority? How is this done?