

Pastor Ted Hartman's sermon for June 14, 2026 based on the Old Testament reading from Exodus 19:2-8 and the Gospel from Matthew 9:35 – 10:20

"On Eagles Wings"

Dear friends, I found the readings for today very interesting. Don't know who picks them but this week they did an excellent job. The readings fit together so nicely. It is an absolute privilege to speak to you today about these readings. In the midst of the spirit of the Lord, He has gathered you here today to tell you of His gifts to you. And as you leave today to your "real" life, you take His words with you.

The Old Testament reading takes place right before Moses receives the Ten Commandments. One phrase that God used that interests me is "on eagles wings" that talks about the Israelites being delivered out of Egypt but really says you are uplifted, saved and inspired with the words He gives us. Marty and I live in the foothills and see huge birds soaring overhead thinking they are eagles but when we or they get closer we realize they are buzzards! But when they are in the distance, they are just soaring, graceful and beautiful. Just as His words can soar. We have little control of things but His words can give us a perspective from on high which we need in our "real" life. No matter what is going on – you are loved through eternity.

The Gospel reading was amazing how Jesus approached and taught the people and then instructed His ambassadors, His disciples, to teach those sheep and He gave them the power to heal them. Jesus had "compassion" toward the sheep. There is a Greek word, "splankna", for that "inner reaction" of compassion. The word focuses on the inner emotional experience of powerful upheaval inside of a person. It is quite a thought to think of Jesus being so emotionally tied to his people. I had something like that happen this past week. Our nurse at our cardiologist had her cancer return. She is the sweetest and kindest person you would ever know. And for that to happen to her, made my "compassion" and concern kick into high gear. What if we had a scanner just as scanning for cancer, as we walked into the church and this scanner displayed all our sins. How many would be in church each Sunday? I suspect not many.

The gift of grace – being loved by God. An example of this grace as some people have pictured getting to God by climbing a ladder and climbing some more and we can't reach the next rung – all we do will not get us to God. But God brings the ladder down to us. That is Grace. We think that if we are "good" God will love us. But God tells us this love is a gift because we live with God's grace.

However you soar, take time to do that this week. You are free and cared for, for all eternity. Amen.