

July 12, 2020 • 6th Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

**C: we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

**By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;**

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Vocal leaders will sing the hymn, please take this time to reflect on the words.

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (Verses 1, 2, 5)

#533

Open now thy gates of beauty
Zion let me enter there
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for God who answers prayer
Oh how blessed is this place
Filled with solace light and grace

Gracious God I come before thee
Come thou also unto me
Where we find thee and adore thee
There a heav'n on earth must be
To my heart oh enter thou
Let it be thy temple now

Speak O God and I will hear thee
Let thy will be done indeed
May I undisturbed draw near thee
While thou dost thy people feed
Here of life the fountain flows
Here is balm for all our woes

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A READING FROM ISAIAH 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM ROMANS 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A READING FROM MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Josh Brecht

HYMN

Vocal leaders will sing the hymn, please take this time to reflect on the words.

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

#516

Almighty God your word is cast
Like seed into the ground
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound

Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy

So when the precious seed is sown
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS

P: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Thank you for the various ways that we are able to give of ourselves, our energy, and/or our resources, to serve your world in need. As you fill us with good things at your table, strengthen us to continue to serve, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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.

COMMUNION PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

P: In this meal, God draws us in and nourishes us with the body of Christ. As we receive this grace and strength, may we realize we are sent out to be that Body in the world, and to proclaim God's truth and love. And may the blessing of God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit, go with you always.

C: Amen.

COMMUNION

Ushers will direct you toward Communion. Please sanitize your hands and wait to remove your mask/eat the bread until you are off to the side. Then continue to exit the sanctuary. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

EXIT AFTER COMMUNION

Vocal Leader: *Jamie De Geer and Rob Peglar*

Musician: *Keith Kolander*

Video & Audio: *Brandon Wade and Andrew Leach*

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