

SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

July 12, 2020



AS WE GATHER

Plants in God's good earth respond to the showers He sends, producing plants for pasture and crops for harvest. In the psalm, David says it is as if "the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy." It is all natural, and so is our producing fruit for God as His Word works through us. That God works through us sinners is all grace; if we but hear the Word and let the Spirit give us understanding, a bountiful harvest will follow. Jesus likens it to seeds producing yields of up to a hundredfold. But we are no mere plants, as Paul points out in the Epistle. Because we have been adopted by our heavenly Father, we are brothers and sisters of Christ, the children of God, calling out to Him, "Abba! Father!" Our growth in faith is indeed by the grace of God, and to Him belongs all the credit for the bountiful harvest He reaps through us.

+ PREPARATION +

HYMN OF INVOCATION ~ LSB 901 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty; / Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty / Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place, / Filled with solace, light, and grace!
- 2 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, O enter Thou; / Let it be Thy temple now!
- 3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted; / Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, / Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be / Fruitful unto life in me.
- 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken; / Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken; / May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, / As my comfort in all strife.
- 5 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.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 55:11-2; Psalm 32:5; 124:8, Matthew 13:23; Romans 8:16*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: In the today's Epistle, Paul reminds us that "the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Let us therefore go to our gracious heavenly Father, confessing our sins.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: In the Old Testament Reading, God promises, "My word . . . shall not return to Me empty; it shall accomplish . . . and shall succeed."

People: But we do not trust You in all things. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, heavenly Father.

Pastor: Then God tells us, "You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace."

People: But we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Hear us, free us, and lead us in paths pleasing to You, heavenly Father.

Pastor: In the Gospel, our Lord explains that "the one who hears the word and understands it . . . bears fruit." By the grace of God, we believe and understand that Jesus, the Word of God in the flesh, succeeded in destroying death and rising victorious for us. For His sake, God forgives us and uses us to bear fruit for Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Word planted inside you produce a great harvest for our gracious Lord.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 103:15-19; antiphon: v.8*

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Christ,
People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Lord,
People: have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE ~ LSB 584 *Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing*

- 1 Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.
- 2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory
Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ~ *Isaiah 55:10-13*

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 65; antiphon: v.5*

- ¹Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.
- ²O you who hears prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.
- ³When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.
- ⁴Blessèd is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;

⁶the one who by his strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;

⁷who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples,

⁸so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.
You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

¹¹You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,

EPISTLE ~ *Romans 8:12-17*

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL ~ *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

After the reading:

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ LSB 577 *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

- 1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast / Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend / And righteous fruits abound.
- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe / This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart / To bring forth fruits of love.

- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares / The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold / The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown, / Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive / Its saving pow'r may know.

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SERMON ~ "Sowing Seeds in the Summer" Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

OFFERING *Online giving is available at www.faithlutheranstephenville.com*

HYMN ~ LSB 893 *Sing to the Lord of the Harvest*

- 1 Sing to the Lord of harvest, / Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices / Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons / In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest / A joyous song of love.
- 3 Bring to this sacred altar / The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, / The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him / When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him / Who gave His life for all.

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+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

[Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN ~ LSB 949 *Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship*

1 Heav'nly hosts in ceaseless worship / "Holy, holy, holy" cry;
"He who is, who was and will be, / God Almighty, Lord Most High."
Praise and honor, pow'r and glory, / Be to Him who reigns alone!
We, with all His hands have fashioned, / Fall before the Father's throne.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

LSB 163

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

People: Amen.

HYMN ~ LSB 949 *Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship*

2 All creation, all redemption, / Join to sing the Savior's worth;
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, / Kings and priests, to reign on earth.
Wealth and wisdom, pow'r and glory, / Honor, might, dominion, praise,
Now be His from all His creatures / And to everlasting days!

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DISTRIBUTION

HYMN ~ LSB 806 *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*

- 1 Give thanks with a grateful heart, / Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given / Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, / Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given / Jesus Christ His Son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," / Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," / Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift,
People: and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;
- Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

BENEDICTION ~ *Numbers 6:24-26*

- Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
People: Amen.

HYMN TO DEPART ~ LSB 921 *On What Has Now Been Sown*

- 1 On what has now been sown / Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone / To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, / And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To Thee our wants are known, / From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own / And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, / And to Thy Word a blessing give.
- 3 O grant that each of us, / Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus / When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home. / E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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