

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“God’s Word sown in good soil”

July 12, 2020



AS WE GATHER

The Word works! The Word of God is our only source of everlasting life. Through Isaiah, God explains that His Word is as effective as rain causing growth in plants. As David writes poetically, His care causes all the trees of the field to clap their hands. And the Word will work in our lives so that we will “go out in joy and be led forth in peace,” as Isaiah puts it. Indeed, Jesus, the Word in the flesh, succeeded in giving us peace and joy by rising victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. As a result, Paul explains in the Epistle, we are God’s adopted children, calling out to Him, “Abba, Father.” But there is work for us to do! As we let the Word work through us, we can expect that, in spite of opposition of all sorts from the world, if we but hear and understand, we will certainly bear fruit for our heavenly Father.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *(Psalm 65)*

Pastor: O You who hears prayer,

People: to You shall all flesh come.

Pastor: When iniquities prevail against me,

People: You atone for our transgressions.

Pastor: Blessed is the one You choose and bring near,

People: to dwell in Your courts!

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; in His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, and their sorrows all He knoweth.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers, Your protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender ev'ry foeman must surrender.

Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Silence for private reflection and confession)

Pastor: Abba! Father!

People: How easily we turn a deaf ear to Your living voice in Your Word both when You call us to honestly account for our thoughts, words, and actions, and also when You speak graciously of Your tender Fatherly love for us. By living according to our egos and our plans for success, we live the lie that we are somehow indebted to the flesh to fulfill its lustful desires. Have mercy on us, O God, forgive our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Pastor: People loved by Jesus, you have not received the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons and daughters, by whom we cry together:

People: “Abba! Father!”

Pastor: Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray... Abba! Father! You have given us the Spirit of adoption in the waters of our Baptism. Grant that we may come to know and believe Your Word that makes us what You always intended us to be: Your own beloved sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:10–13*
(God’s Word accomplishes His purposes.)

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, 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 make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:12–17*
(The Spirit of adoption as sons)

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and 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 for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous 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 the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact 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, although 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 Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*
(The Word of the Kingdom as seed being sown)

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

⁹He who has ears, let him hear.” ...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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

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.

SERMON "God's Word sown in good soil" Matthew 13:23

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING (*please leave your offering outside the sanctuary in the plate*)

(*Please stand*)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, O heav'nly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

☩ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ☩

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.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise. (*Psalms 136*)

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, through whom we have received the Spirit of adoption as sons. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

WORDS OF OUR LORD (*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*)

Pastor: 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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

****DISTRIBUTION MUSIC****

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee; may I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
 Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
 Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, how I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
 Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; take my ransom'd soul away;
 Send Thine angels soon to carry me to realms of endless day.

Father Welcomes

Father welcomes all His children to His fam'ly through His Son.
 Father giving His salvation, life forever has been won.

Little children come to Me, for My kingdom is of these.
 Life and love I have to give, mercy for your sin.

Father welcomes all His children to His fam'ly through His Son.
 Father giving His salvation, life forever has been won.

In the water, in the Word, in His promise be assured:
 Those who are baptized and believe shall be born again.

Father welcomes all His children to His fam'ly through His Son.
 Father giving His salvation, life forever has been won.

Let us daily die to sin; let us daily rise with Him,
 Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, live in the peace of God.

Father welcomes all His children to His fam'ly through His Son.
 Father giving His salvation, life forever has been won.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light my strength my song.
This cornerstone this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace?

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My comforter, my all in all. Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.

‘Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied.

For ev’ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay. Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again.

And as He stands in victory sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.

For I am His and He is mine. Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.

From life’s first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no human plan, can ever pluck me from his hand;

‘Til he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Thank You, Abba, Father, for the gifts You have given Your children today.

Your gracious Word of forgiveness and life, along with the Sacrament of Jesus’ body and blood, both renew and keep us in Your fatherly embrace. Use these gifts to strengthen us in living our baptismal identity each day as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,

The people of God from his dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended, Oh, now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us

To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God everliving,

The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,

Embracing his children of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us, With your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living, With praise and thanksgiving

Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

POST-SERVICE MUSIC



Sermon Notes

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