

Grace Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020



GATHERING ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Bold type = Assembly

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen**

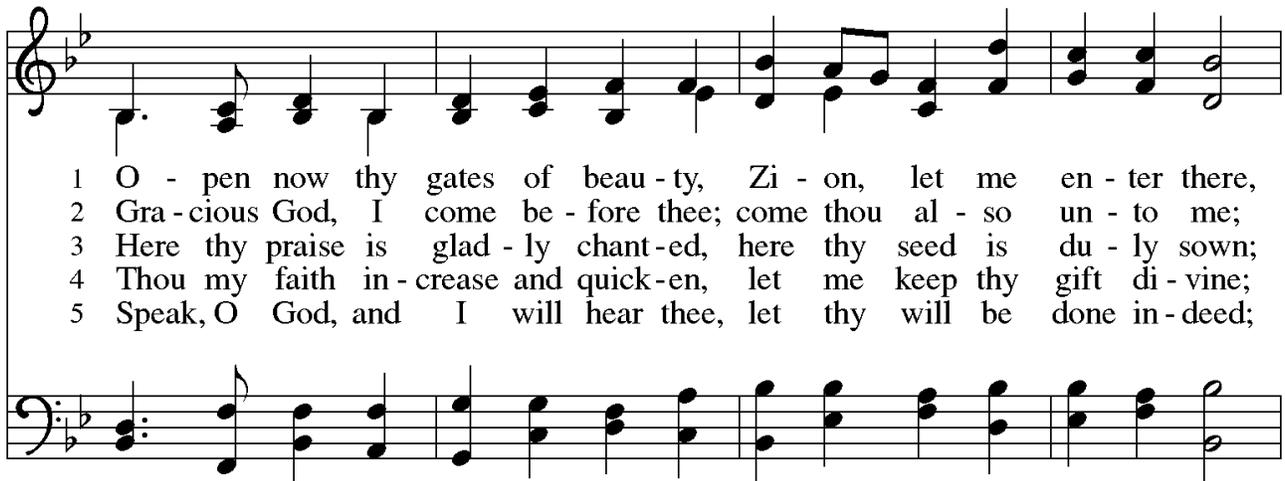
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

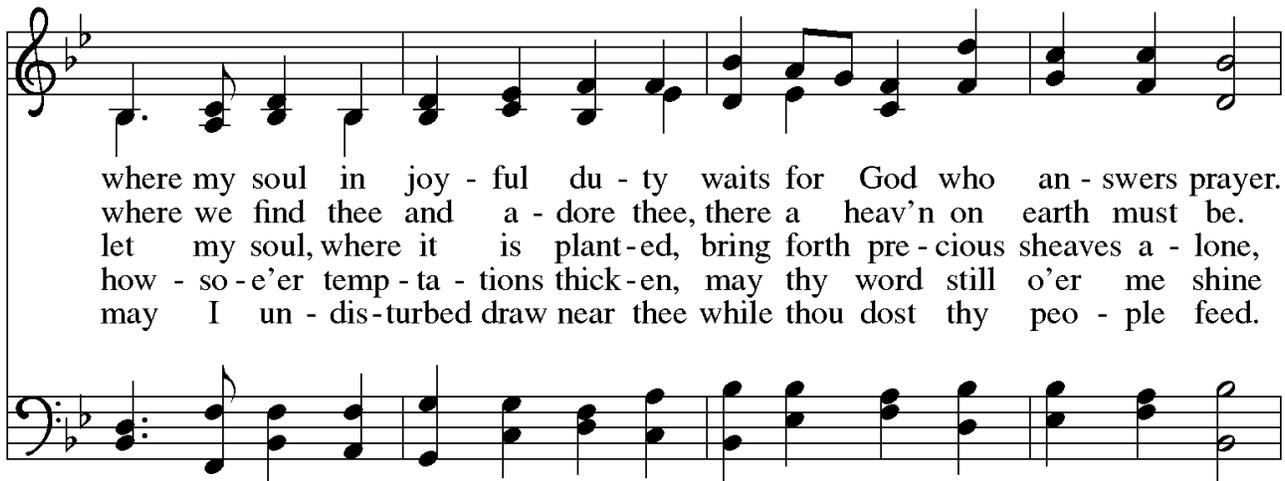
Reconciling God,

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

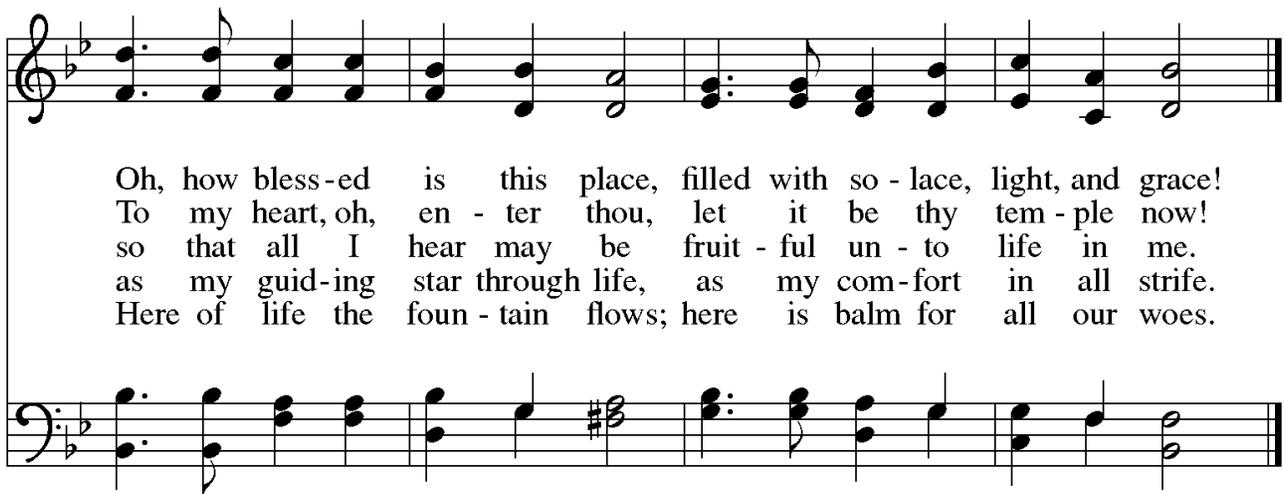
Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thic - ken, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray –

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING

(Pause and listen as desired)

WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Pause to view if desired)

FIRST READING

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 65:1-13 (Read in unison)

¹**You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.**

²**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

³**Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.**

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.

⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with
grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:1-11

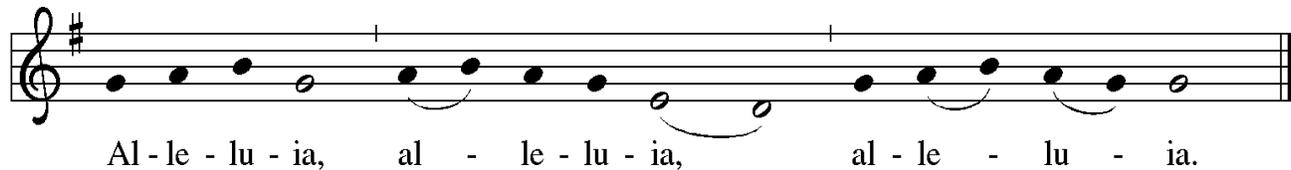
There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 13th chapter. **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."

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON ~

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE 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 OF INTERCESSION & THE PEACE

*Each petition ends: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
The Pastor and the Assembly greet each other in the peace of Christ.*

OFFERING

This is normally the place in the service where we would collect the offering. We understand that this pandemic is making many people uneasy, and that finances are a concern for some among us. We ask that you please remember that our expenses continue, as well, even while we are practicing social distancing; that we still have bills to pay and the day to day costs of running a church to cover. We humbly and prayerfully ask that – if at all possible – you continue to be faithful to your financial commitment to Grace.

MUSICAL OFFERING ~ Anthem

(Pause and listen as desired)

MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

A CELEBRATION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

During this time of fasting from in-person worship, we have also been fasting from the Sacrament of the Meal – Holy Communion. Many among us, including our worship leaders, miss both the gift of the Meal, and the sharing of Communion in our community of faith.

For those unable, for whatever reason, to receive holy communion during a worship service in Western Christianity there has long been a tradition known as “Spiritual Communion,” an act of belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist and an expressed desire for Christ’s presence in the believer’s soul.

Spiritual Communion is not the Meal in the way we are used to receiving it. However, it does allow us to see the Bread and the Cup, and to hear the Words of Institution and the Great Thanksgiving. It also allows us to experience the truth, that even when we cannot receive Christ physically, in the bread and wine, we can receive him into our hearts, our minds, and our being.

At this time, Pastor Jenn will lead us in the liturgy of Communion, lifting up the elements and blessing them. We will then say the Lord’s Prayer together and, after that, you may pause the service to pray your own prayer of reception of Spiritual Communion, or you may use the prayer printed in your booklet.

It is not the same thing as receiving physical Communion, and we are aware of that. But we hope that you will feel a connection to one another – and to Jesus – in this act of Spiritual Communion.

Please know that this is optional. If you do not feel moved to participate in Spiritual Communion, you may skip ahead to the Sending portion of the service.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

PRAYER FOR THE RECEPTION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(You may pray this prayer, written by Dr. Teresa Burger, Yale Divinity School, or a prayer of your own)

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the Eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen

SENDING ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✚ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

“On What Has Now Been Sown”
(SEE BACK OF BOOKLET)

(ELW 550)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Christ is with you! We will! Thanks be to God!

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CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Leslie Heffner – heffnerl@gmail.com

READER: Abi Hudson

RECORDING & TECH PERSON: Denise Wetzel

1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing Lord, be - stow; the
 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
 cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
 meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
 Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
 you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

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