

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020



In Our Separation God draws near

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

*You are invited to bring a bowl of water into your sacred space
as we remember our Baptismal unity.*



Gathering Music

As the Grains of Wheat

Greeting

As we gather from our separate locations, let us join together in worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

As a remembrance of your baptism into the community of God's people of all times and all places, dip your finger into your bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

Confession & Forgiveness

Trusting in the promise of God's forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we have seen the injustice in our world more clearly. The marginalized and invisible among us have been brought to our attention in vivid and shocking ways.

We confess our part in the suffering of the world. For not always loving our neighbors as you have commanded us. For not always having empathy for the suffering of others. For not always sharing our wealth with those who have little.

We ask that you draw near to us in our time of uncertainty. Forgive us our failure to live as your witness in the world. Forgive us our failure to love and support those in need. Forgive us our failure to care for your world.

Through the abundance of God's grace, you are forgiven of all your sin. Through the example of Jesus, you are given a model of love. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, you are revitalized to serve. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Creation Sings the Father's Song

*Creation sings the Father's song
He calls the sun to wake the dawn
And run the course of day
Till evening falls in crimson rays
His fingerprints in flakes of snow
His breath upon this spinning globe
He charts the eagle's flight
Commands the newborn baby's cry*

*Chorus
Hallelujah
Let all creation stand and sing
Hallelujah
Fill the earth with songs of worship
Tell the wonders of creation's King*

*Creation longs for His return
When Christ shall reign upon the earth
The bitter wars that rage
Are birth pains of a coming age
When He renews the land and sky
All heaven will sing and earth reply
With one resplendent theme
The glory of our God and King
Chorus*

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55:10-13

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.
²To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.
³Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.
⁴Happy 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Come and Fill Our Hearts Red ELW 528

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. O Christ.**

Message

Song

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Red ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
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.

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

Red ELW 752

Sung before prayers

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

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

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.**

Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

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

Blessing & Sending

In our separation, may the God who draws near bless you with:

Peace for trembling hearts,

Strength for weary souls,

And Love for all life.

The God who draws near calls us together to follow.

Siblings in Christ, follow God who draws us near to love and care for the poor.

Together with God and one another, we will follow.

Sending Song

This Little Light of Mine

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**All around my neighborhood . . .
Let it shine 'till Jesus comes . . .**

Sending

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

How Deep the Father's Love



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Assisting Minister: Paul Thomas
- Reader: Judy Ekberg, Denise Ikenberry
- Musicians: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues