

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020

PRELUDE

Erhalt uns, Herr

Keith Kolander

INVOCATION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that attentive to Your Word, we may confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING VERSICLES

P You are the treasured people of the Lord, a people holy to the Lord our God.

C **Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.**

P Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

C **One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

OPENING HYMN

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

Lord, open now my heart to hear, and through Your Word to me draw near;
let me Your Word e'er pure retain; let me Your child and heir remain.

Your Word inspires my heart within; Your Word grants healing from my sin;
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless; Your Word brings peace and happiness.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
shall glory, praise, and honor be now and throughout eternity.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C 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, hope and love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *(from Psalm 65)*

P Praise awaits You, O God in Zion; to You our vows will be fulfilled.

C You care for the land and water it; You enrich it abundantly.

P The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so You have ordained it.

C You drench its furrows and level its ridges; You soften it with showers and bless its crops.

P You crown the year with Your bounty, and Your carts overflow with abundance.

C The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

P The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;

C they shout for joy and sing.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:3-9, 19-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³[Jesus] 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!... 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

SERMON

"Snow Showers Bring Bread Flowers"

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for the needs of the world.

P Gracious God, Your Word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith that we share. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what You have given. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Abiding God, care for all who are in need. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. We pray especially for all on our prayer line and those we remember before You now (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Renewing God, revive Your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds You have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries, especially our Vacation Bible School and outreach programs, and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died, especially those most dear to us. Comfort us with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. 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, who taught us to pray:

C 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.

CLOSING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown

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!

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!

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C Amen.

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Darwall's 148th

Sam Eatherton

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:

Lector John Ansorge

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