



Worship for Sunday, July 12, 2020 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

Introduction to the day

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

PRELUDE - "The Quiet Heart" by Thomas Keesecker

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE - "Come and Fill Our Hearts" (*sing twice*)



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

(*Read by Bonnie Daleness*)

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11*(Read by Kristy Knipple)*

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE - “In the Field”

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - “Morning Has Broken”

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
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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.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

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

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 we share. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

Reigning God, we pray for the government of our country, state and county. 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.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for everyone who is suffering from the heat. We pray for peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East. We pray for our society to be purged of racism. We pray for the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. We pray for those without jobs or health care. We pray for medical workers and researchers. We pray for all who are sick. We pray for all who are burdened by anxiety.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE - "Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun" arr. Anna Laura Page

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KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Shirley Lieske, Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Rob Rutzen, John Winter.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of
Joan Retzlaff
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil &
LaVerne Morgan
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law
of Barbara & Dan Davies
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob
Lieske
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters &
Stepdad of Lori Salas
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb
Davies
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly
Rosenstock
Helen Miller, mother of Jenny Koeff as she has
surgery this week.
Wayne and Dimitri, friends of Mary Rockstad
as they have surgery this week.

Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue
Herman
Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda
Johnson
Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend
of the Homeless
Judy Ventimiglia, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan
Kowalewski
Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of
Karen Miller
Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne
Niese
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Steve, son of Louise Becker
Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske