

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word

July 12, 2020

**PRELUDE** Contemplation | Alec Rowley

## Gathering

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

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 minister of the church 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.

**Amen.**

### ENTRANCE HYMN #533 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



- 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 thick-en, 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.

**APOSTOLIC 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.**

**GLORIA**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting your word in us. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive you with joy, and grow in faith, hope, and love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Word

## **FIRST READING** *Isaiah 55:10–13*

For 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, so 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. For 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. Instead 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**

*The cantor and congregation alternate in the singing of psalm verses, beginning with the cantor.*



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

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

Our sins are strong- | er than we are,\*  
but you blot out | our transgressions.

**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.**

Awesome 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.

**You make firm the mountains | by your power;\***  
**you are girded a- | bout with might.**

You still the roaring | of the seas,\*  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

**Those 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.**

You 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.

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

You crown the year | with your goodness,\*  
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

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

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain,\*  
let them shout for | joy and sing.

## **SECOND READING** *Romans 8:1–11*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For 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, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not

according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But 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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If 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**

*Alleluia sung by all:*

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: "Alleluia 7." Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community  
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*Verse sung by cantor:* The word is very near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.  
 Repeat **Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL** *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Hear then the parable of the sower. When 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet 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. As 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. But 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.**

**SERMON**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #516** Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
 but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
 but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
 that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

**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**

.... Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Sung by all*



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be  
thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our  
dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,  
as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us  
not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.  
For thine is the king- dom, and the pow- er, and the  
glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

**Sending**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #550** On What Has Now Been Sown



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

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Moderato from *Drei Tonstücke* | Neils W. Gade

*Our thanks to Bob Brod, who serves as cantor today.*

## Today from the life of the church

With prayer goes gratitude. Thanksgiving is a real, interior, knowledge. With great reverence and loving fear, it turns us with all our powers to do whatever our good Lord indicates. It brings joy and gratitude within. Sometimes its very abundance gives voice, “Good Lord, thank you and bless you!” And sometimes when the heart is dry and unfeeling — or it may be because of the enemy’s tempting — then reason and grace drive us to cry aloud to our Lord, recalling his blessed passion and great goodness. And the strength of our Lord’s Word comes to the soul, and fires the heart, and leads it by grace into its real business, enabling it to pray happily and to enjoy our Lord in truth. Thanksgiving is a blessed thing in his sight.

*Julian of Norwich (1332 – 1420)*  
*Revelations of Divine Love*

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