



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 16, 2017



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

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 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(A brief silence.)*
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done
and things we have failed to do. Turn us
again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in
newness of life through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord. 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 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.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

**Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!**

**Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!**

**Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.**

**Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.**

**Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.**

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

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

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 and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

The logo features the words "CHILDREN'S" and "CHURCH" in a large, blue, dashed font. The letter "C" in "CHURCH" is significantly larger than the other letters. Five diverse cartoon children's faces are integrated into the letters: a boy with a crown in the "C", a girl with pigtails in the "H", a girl with a headband in the "U", a boy with black hair in the "R", and a boy with brown hair in the "C". The entire logo is centered on a white background within a green double-line border.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah, the 55th chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 65

R: 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.

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

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

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

R: May 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

A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON
“Spiritual Agriculture”

HYMN OF THE DAY *“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

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

P: Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

(A brief silence.) Gracious God, we give thanks for your living word that goes out and does not return empty. Make your church a partner in accomplishing what you desire.

Unite us in faith, witness, and mission.

Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: For land, creatures, and people suffering from drought, that gentle rain bring life and hope. For mountains, hills, and the trees of the field, that all creation clap for joy.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: For nations suffering the violence and hunger of war (*especially*). For exiles and refugees. Lead them home in peace and bless them with your fullness.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: For victims and perpetrators of race-based crime. For all who suffer sorrow, illness, or injury (*especially*). Bring them justice, healing, and new life by the power of your Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: For this congregation and its leaders;
through our shared work, let your word
prosper among us and bring life to the
community beyond our doors.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In thanksgiving for all who have died recently, for strangers and dear ones who have blessed our lives and sparked our hope (*especially*). Give comfort and confidence to all who mourn.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING THE OFFERING ~

“Praying Man”

By Brian Free and Assurance

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We give thee but thine own,
whatever the gifts may be
All that we have is thine alone,
a trust, oh Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus,
as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us,
to thee our first fruits give.*

*We Give
Thee But Thine Own*

The logo consists of the words 'We Give Thee But Thine Own' in a mix of red and black cursive fonts. The word 'Give' is the largest and features a small red heart icon above the letter 'i'. The words 'Thee But' are smaller and positioned below 'We'. The words 'Thine Own' are also smaller and positioned below 'Give'.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: We give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the
Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

THE 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.

~ ***COMMUNION*** ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May it show us where to travel,

lead us back if we should stray,

May the light of God shine on us today.

**May the love of God live in us today.
May the love of God live in us today.
May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say,
May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways,
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**































































