

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ardmore, Pennsylvania
July 12, 2020



The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Joy Baxter, violin

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Converse/arr. W. Fritchie

(Congregation speaks words in bold print)

Announcements

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of God whose Word is scattered as seed among us, in the name of Jesus Christ who is God's Word in human flesh, and in the name of the Holy Spirit whose power grows God's Word in the good soil of our lives.

Trusting in God's mercy and compassion let us confess our sins.

A time of silence for confession

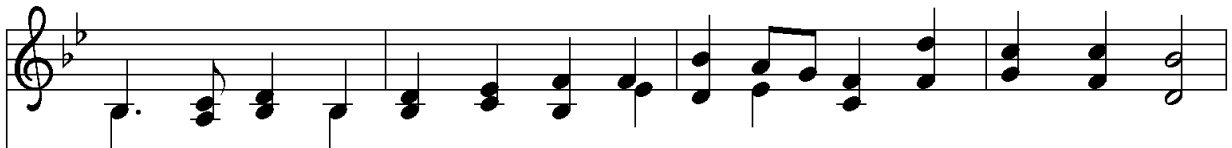
God of good soil,

You have scattered the seed of your Word in the depths of our hearts. We confess the hardness of our hearts, where the seed of your Word cannot grow. We confess that we allow those things to grow in our lives that choke out the new life you intend. God of good soil, forgive us. Plant your Word deep within our hearts and allow it to grow full and free.

This is the good news for all God's people! The Word of God in Jesus Christ has the power to forgive sin and renew our broken relationships. The Word of God in Jesus Christ has the power to remove those things from our lives that choke out the growth of all that is good. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. We are free to bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity to our world. Praise God!



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 thic - ken, 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.



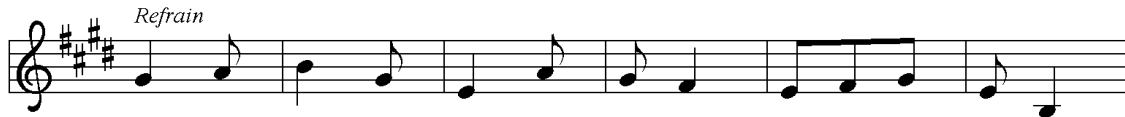
GREETING

The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Cultivate and nourish us, O God, so that we may be good soil. Plant the seed of your Word deep in the soil of our hearts, sow in us the seeds of love and compassion. Let your love take root within us and your compassion grow in us. May our lives bring forth the fruits of the Spirit for the life of the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Word

Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

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.

Reader/ A reading from Isaiah.

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.

Solo
Scott Houldin, tenor

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee
Dale Wood

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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.

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

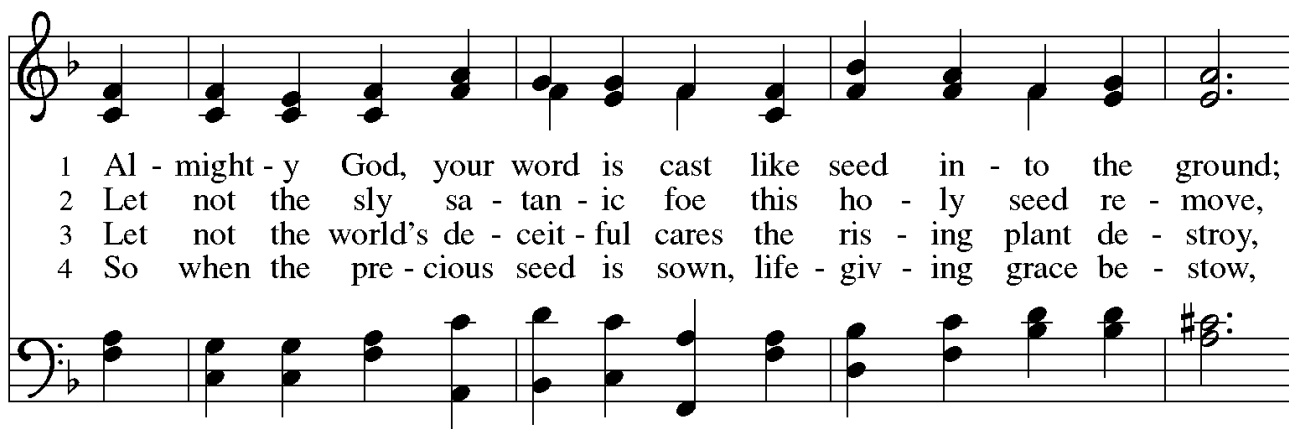
the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“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.”

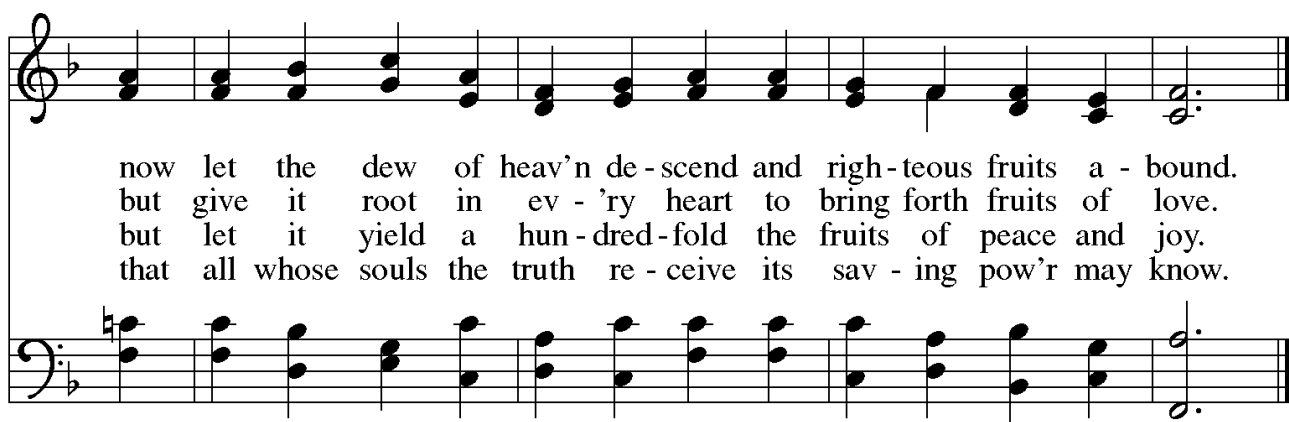
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Peterson



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.

THE PRAYERS

(Each portion of the prayers concludes with the following:)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

BENEDICTION

May God the sower make you good and fertile soil.

May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions.

May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.

May our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
 2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our



us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
 lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our



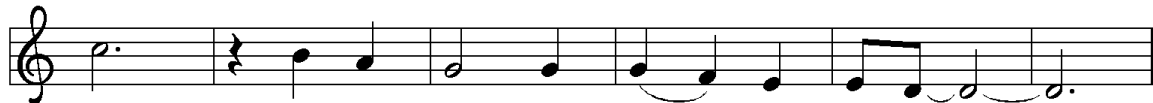
ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
 doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.



Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
 Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us



guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
 bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us



world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
 sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain



Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in



faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your



word to spread the news of your Son!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love God and one another.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Voluntary in D

George Dyson

Even though we are not meeting in person, the church has many fixed expenses including staff salaries and care of the building. We are also continuing our congregational support to our partner congregation Mediator, Philadelphia, and the Ardmore Food Pantry. We encourage you to continue giving to support our ministry, as you are able to in these times. Checks can be mailed to the church office, or you can give online at www.stpaulsardmore.com/giving.





St. Paul's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Staff

The Rev. Kris A. Peterson – Bridge Pastor

Andrew K. Heller – Director of Music

Carisa Cantor – Parish Administrator

Evelyn Reider – Controller

Mike Dougherty – Cemetery Superintendent

Dave Curry – Cemetery and Property Caretaker

Runa Kennedy & Ally Ross – Nursery Caregivers

Helene Roth – Council President

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