

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*Ardmore, Pennsylvania*  
*July 19, 2020*



*The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

Prelude

*Aria*

Flor Peeters

*(Congregation speaks words in bold print)*

Announcements

*Gathering*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the sower, the seed, the fruit.

**Blessed be God forever!**

Let us confess our sin before our gracious God, whose mercy endures forever.

*A time of silence for confession*

*Merciful God,*

**You plant each of us like seeds in the same field and together we are nourished and nurtured by your Word. We are blessed by the knowledge that you want us to grow into who you created us to be.**

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,  
**forgive us.**

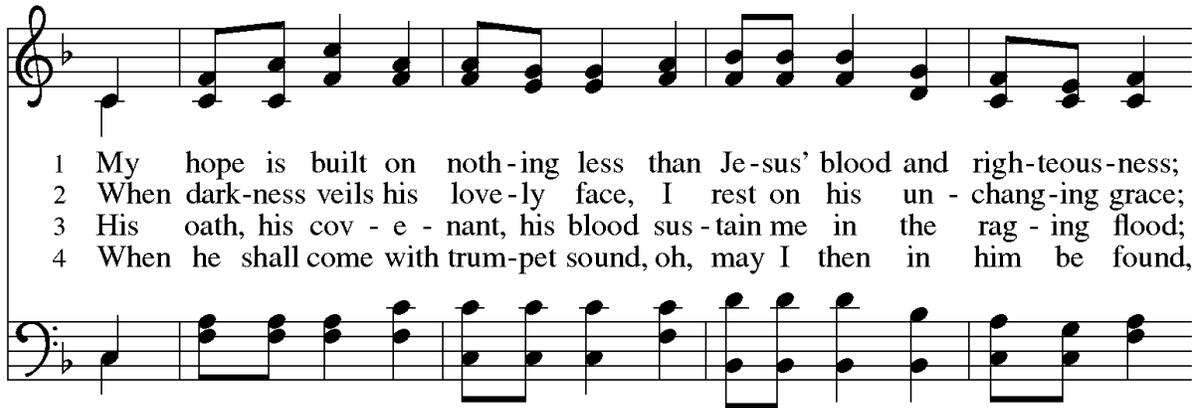
When we want to uproot those whom we believe do not belong in our part of the field,  
**forgive us.**

When we label others as “those” people rather than siblings in Christ,  
**forgive us.**

When we are reluctant to acknowledge that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,  
**forgive us.**

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives to see what is growing there,  
**forgive us. Look upon us with mercy so that we may be fruits of love and compassion for the sake of our world.**

Hear the Good News! God’s unconditional love does not seek appearances or conditions, but loves in such a way that we are restored to health and wholeness. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We are free to grow in the field of God’s love. Praise God!

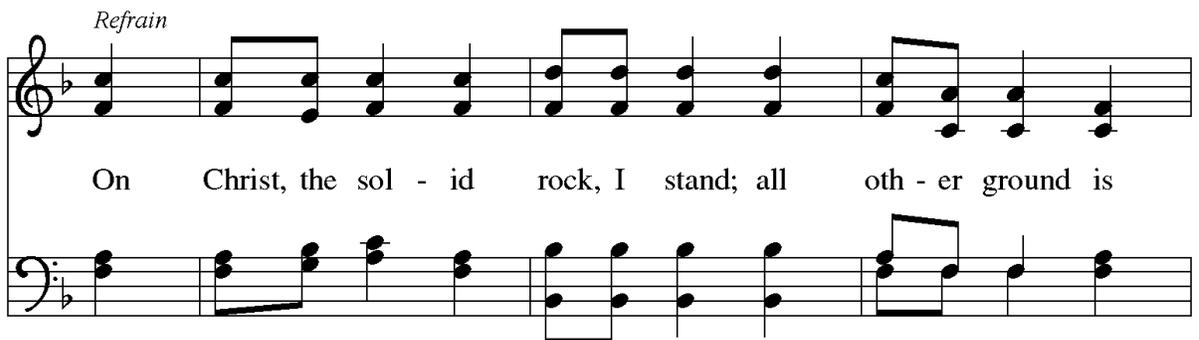


1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness;  
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un - chang - ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

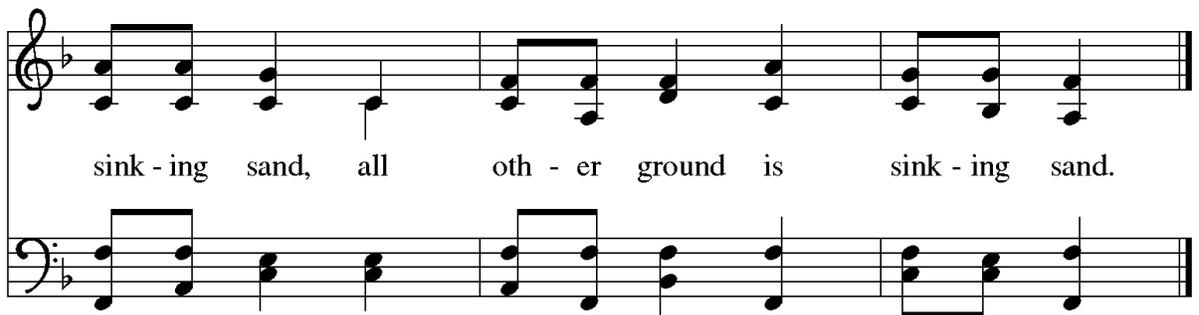


no mer - it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 when all sup - ports are washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

# 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

Holy God, you call us to live out your justice and righteousness in our daily lives. Help us to walk in your love, so that we never lose our way. Enable us to live and love one another as you have taught us, responding with conviction and grace to those who would keep us from following your path of love and mercy. In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## *Word*

### Reading

Romans 8:18-25

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

Reader/ A reading from Romans.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope

we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Solo

Helena Koerner, soprano

*God, My Shepherd, Walks Beside Me*

J. S. Bach

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are

the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

Sermon

Pastor Peterson

HYMN OF THE DAY # 681

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,  
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.  
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,

but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,  
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.  
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written between the two staves. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining three lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,  
 The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;  
 No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,

the breez-es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.  
 much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.  
 but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

*Refrain*

All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

## THE PRAYERS

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

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

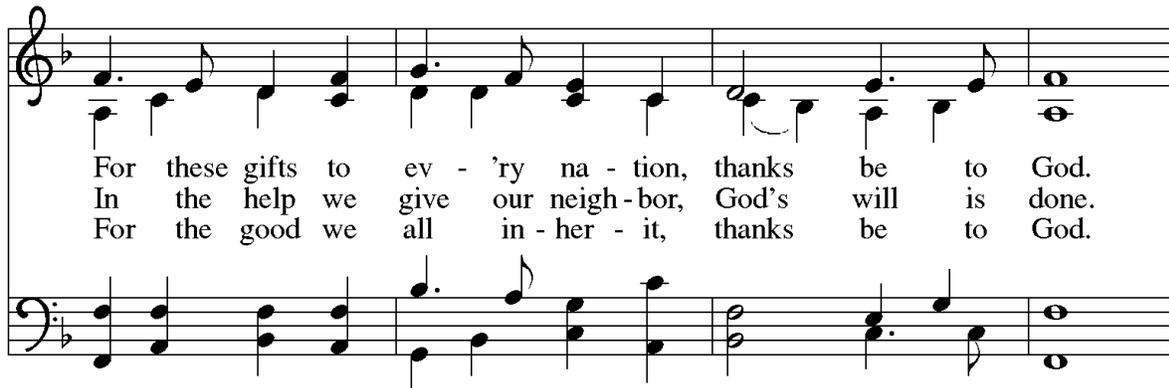
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

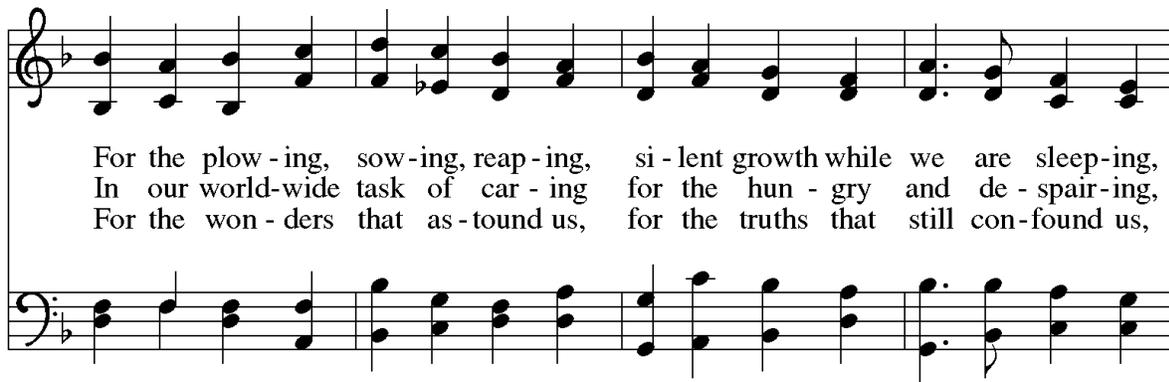
May God the sower make you good and fertile soil.  
May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions.  
May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.  
May our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



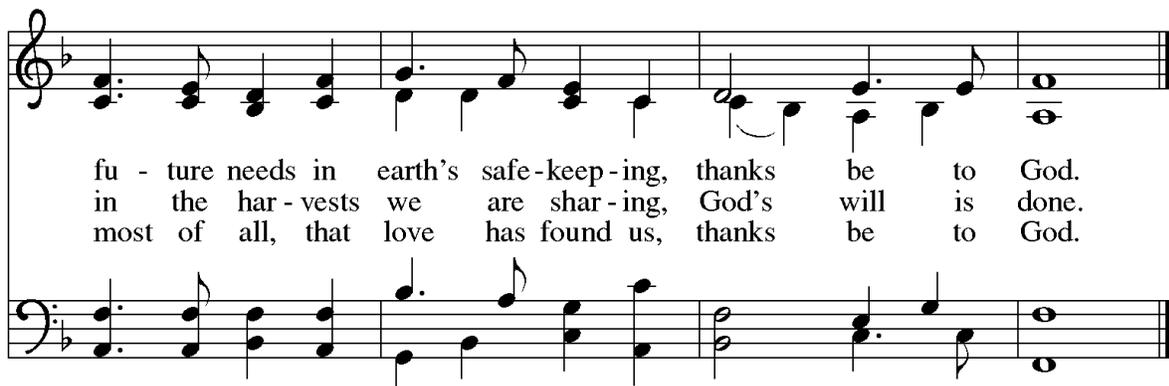
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love God and one another.

**Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*Festival Flourish*

Flor Peeters

*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](http://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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