



*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville*  
*Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin*

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*July 12, 2020*

**Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!** If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

**Invitation to Communion:** Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

**Procedure for Communing:** We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

**Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.**

## Service of Holy Communion

**Significance of 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.

### *Gathering*

Prelude                      Hymn Variations on *Ar Hyd Y Nos*                      (Young et al)

*(The assembly stands as the ministers enter.)*

### Confession

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

Opening Hymn

What Is This Place

*(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)*

What is this place where we are meeting?  
Only a house, the earth its floor.  
Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives  
when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling,  
sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders  
sent from the past are all we need.  
We in this place remember and speak  
again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at this table,  
broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living,  
we are each other's bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive  
what we need to increase:  
our justice and God's peace.

*(The assembly stands.)*

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

## *Word*

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah:

10 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,  
11 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.

12 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.

13 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

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
- 2 To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 11 You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 12 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- 13 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

A reading from Romans:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 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, 4 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. 5 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. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 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, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 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. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 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 (*The assembly stands.*)

**Alleluia!**

**The word is very near to you;  
it is in your mouth and in your heart.**

**Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The reading of the Gospel.)*

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 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. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone with ears listen!"

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 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. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 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. 22 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. 23 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.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

*(The assembly remains seated.)*

Hymn of the Day

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

*(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)*

Almighty God, your word is cast  
like seed into the ground;  
now let the dew of heav'n descend  
and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe  
this holy seed remove,  
but give it root in ev'ry heart  
to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares  
the rising plant destroy,  
but let it yield a hundredfold  
the fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,  
life-giving grace bestow,  
that all whose souls the truth receive  
its saving pow'r may know.

*(The assembly stands.)*

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

A: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world responding, “Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

*(Brief silence)*

A: 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. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, teachers, council members and volunteers. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: Abiding God, care for all who are in need, especially those struggling with the pandemic who are sick, fearful, worried or financially hurt. 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died, especially Rich. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(The assembly sits.)*

## *Meal*

Music as the meal is prepared      Interlude on *Jag Kan Icke Rakna dem Alla*

(Long)

*(The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)*

Offering Prayer

Let us pray

Gracious God, you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### Breaking of Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

*(The assembly sits.)*

### Communion of the Faithful

***Procedure for Communing:** We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

*(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)*

### Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you onto eternal life.

**Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sending*

Our Prayer for These Times

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

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

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil  
for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Finale on *Terra Patris*

(arr. Bish)

*(Once the pastor is at the back of the church, ushers will dismiss by row.)*

**Serving Today**

**Presiding Minister** ..... Pastor Brenda Martin  
**Organist** ..... Maidene Hackett  
**Liturgical Deacon** ..... Marj Stubert  
**Communion Assistant** ..... Catherine Snyder  
**Lector** ..... Judi Moinet  
**Head Ushers** ..... Mary Beth Bradley  
**Altar Guild** ..... Marj Stubert  
Linda Oman

**Acknowledgments**

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**Pastors in residence:**

**The Rev. Julia Fraser**, chaplain at St. Paul Homes  
**The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris**, retired, Mercyhurst University  
**The Rev. Brian Riddle**, Thiel College Campus Pastor  
**The Rev. Martin Roth**, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
**The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson**, retired, Thiel College