

Joy Lutheran Church

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A sower
went out
to sow

MATTHEW 13:3

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated.”

We are glad you are here if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You're welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian.” We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecided. If you cheer for the right team, or don't like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we!

Children are always welcome here. We are used to the joyful sounds of our youngest sisters and brothers. We do have some activity bags near the main entrance, to keep restless hands busy. Due to COVID-19 we discourage use of our Family Room right now.



Flowers are given
in celebration of
Margie Hall's birthday



Introduction

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.

Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

C: and also with you.

Call to Worship (based on Matthew 13:1-9)

L: Gracious God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation,

C: Hungry for an encounter with you, eager to hear your Word.

L: Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.

**C: Forgive us where we refuse to see the truth about ourselves
and our hearts are hard.**

L: May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil.

**C: May they take root in our hearts and lives,
and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.**

L: We lay down our sins and burdens before you this morning

C: Thank you for your gentle welcome and love.

L: Come let us worship in the name of Jesus Christ !

C: Let us come before God with thanksgiving! Amen.



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird,
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass,
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass,
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For 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,

¹¹so 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.

¹²For 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.

¹³Instead 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.**

Gospel Reading

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.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

Special Music

Turn, Turn, Turn

Roy Corral

Sermon

Pr. Karen Sonray

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Prayers/Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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.

Special Music (during holy communion)

Laura Storrs

Communion (please come forward in a staggered fashion)

Benediction

Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

ELW 881

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days,
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light,
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Dismissal

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We will have extras if you do not have one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. We ask you leave 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household if you are sitting in the same row.
3. We are limiting our capacity to 50 people.
4. We are not using hymnals.
5. We will be initiating communion, practicing good protocol limited to wafers and no cup. This will be held monthly at first.
6. We will HUM rather than SING initially. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
7. We will limit the worship service to approximately 30 minutes, since the longer people share the same air space the odds of spreading germs increase.
8. We will not have any contact during the passing of the peace but will stay at 6 ft. distances- sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
9. Offering Plates are placed in stationary positions to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for giving your offerings there.
10. We ask you to FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER inside your bulletin and place it in the Offering Plate.
11. As you are dismissed, we will exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
12. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Disinfectant spray and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
13. Please do not linger too long in the Sanctuary. If you would like to visit, we suggest you do so outdoors while maintaining 6 ft. distances.
14. All coffee and food is suspended at this time.

Upcoming Events in July

July 19 - Discussion after worship on Joy's ministry strengths and priorities

July 26 - Confirmation service

Virtual VBS: “Splash in God’s Love!”

- Packets for VBS are available for pick up today, Sunday 9-11am in the narthex, and Monday 10-5 in the office. They include craft supplies snacks a few other needed items for a Fun VBS for your child!



Thank you Laura Storrs & Roy Corral for today's music.