

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 10

That Which *Does* Give Life

July 12, 2020

AS WE GATHER

The Word works! The Word of God is our only source of everlasting life. Through Isaiah, God explains that His Word is as effective as rain causing growth in plants. And the Word will work in our lives so that we will “go out in joy and be led forth in peace,” as Isaiah puts it. Indeed, Jesus, the Word in the flesh, succeeded in giving us peace and joy by rising victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. As a result, Paul explains in the Epistle, we are God’s adopted children, calling out to Him, “Abba, Father.” But there is work for us to do! As we let the Word work through us, we can expect that, in spite of opposition of all sorts from the world, if we but hear and understand, we will certainly bear fruit for our heavenly Father.

PRELUDE

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty - Paul Manz

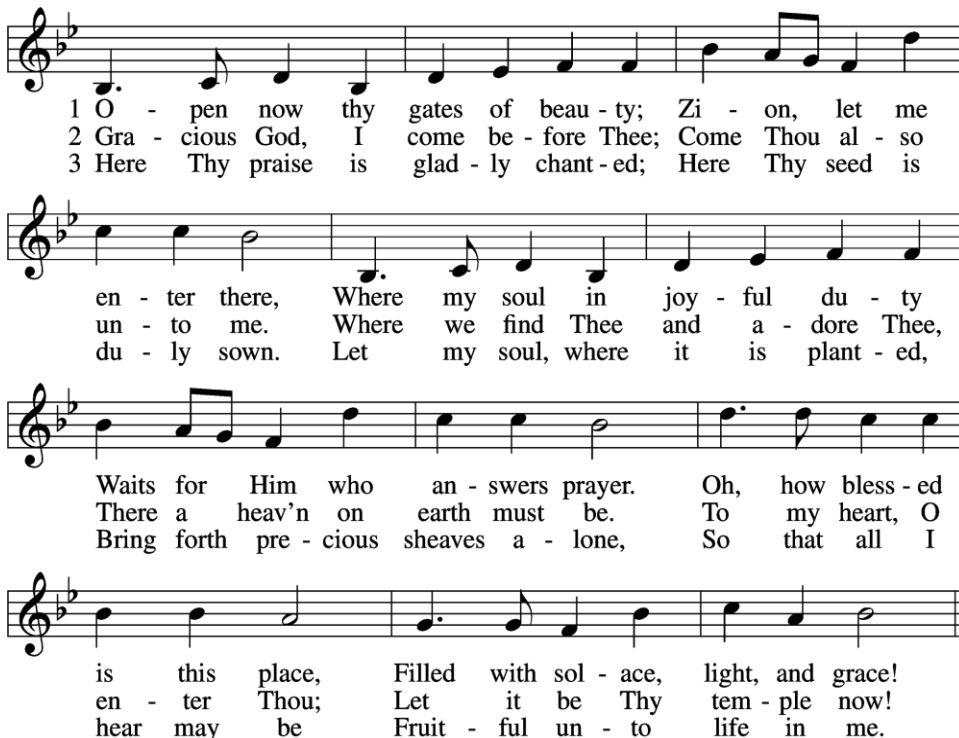
BELLS

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty - LSB 901:1-3



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: We gather in the name of the Father who creates, Jesus who saves ✠, the Holy Spirit, who gives power.

People: **Amen! Praise God in all the earth because our God is a great God.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: You well-deserve the praises of your children, O God, and they should fulfill their pledges to you.

People: Everyone must eventually face up to you, and it must be with all our sins and shortcomings.

Pastor: But those who come in sorrow and repentance shall find you merciful and gracious. You, O Lord, shall forgive their sins and fill their hearts with your love and joy.

People: God of good news, you sow your love in such generous extravagance.

We have tried to imitate you, but so much of our effort has been wasted.

People do not understand the message.

The world strangles the hope we proclaim.

Evil snatches away the good we do.

We are worn-out, frustrated and disheartened.

**We would rather just keep your seeds of love for ourselves,
rather than see them vainly cast everywhere in such wasteful extravagance.**

God of good news,

Forgive the poverty of our vision, lack of faith, and lukewarm love.

Restore our hope with a glimpse of the good soil.

Renew our boldness with a taste of the coming fruit.

Revitalize our work with the certainty of your harvest.

Pastor: In the name of the God of love I bring you good news!

Our God is extravagant in all things:

forgiveness, as well as love; seed-sowing, as well as harvest.

Trust God's forgiveness. Trust God's extravagance.

Sow the seeds of love everywhere, and your supply will never be exhausted.

So the seeds of love everywhere, and trust God to care for the harvest.

Sow the seeds of love everywhere, and delight in your own extravagance.

Sow the seeds of love everywhere, and there will be fruit.

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, who has given us this good earth in which to live and who sends rain and sun to cause plants to produce fruit and grain for harvest,

People: continue to send Your life-giving Word to us so that we resist the cares of this world and return to You a harvest of new sons and daughters,

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:10–13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you

shall break forth into singing,
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 make a name for the Lord,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 8:12–17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”

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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON

“It is All About the Soil”

Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast - LSB 577



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

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CREED

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 65:2–5, 9, 11

Pastor: *We use today's psalm as we pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various circumstances. David writes, "O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come." (Ps.65:2)*

Assistant: Let us pray for those near and dear to us, [especially . . .], who call to God in their distress.

People: **Heavenly Father, visit, relieve, restore, and console them in Your mercy, and use us to help meet their needs.**

Pastor: *"When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions." (Ps.65:3)*

Assistant: Let us pray for all who are wrongly accused or falsely imprisoned by court systems.

People: Lord of the nations, give them justice, clear their names, and free them; move governments to make reforms where they are needed.

Assistant: And let us pray for those who have acted rashly, destroyed relationships, or run afoul of civil laws.

People: Lord Jesus, provide them opportunities and faithful counselors that they hear of Your mercy, repent, and repair their broken lives.

Pastor: *"We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple." (Ps.65:4)*

Assistant: Let us pray for the Church here and around the world.

People: O Holy Spirit, bless, protect, and guide Your people as they proclaim the Gospel, and invite one and all to the joys of Your mercy, forgiveness, and love.

Pastor: *"By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness." (Ps.65:5)*

Assistant: Let us pray for all who make, administer, and adjudicate the nation's laws and seek peace across borders, and for all who serve their communities and nations by putting themselves in harm's way.

People: Lord Jesus, raise up good and righteous people in positions of power, and give protection and courage to those having to make sudden decisions.

Pastor: *"You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it." (Ps.65:9)*

Assistant: Let us pray for all who tend the soil, transport crops, and distribute food where it is needed.

People: Gracious God, send rain and sun to farms, protection to pilots and drivers, and guidance for those who manage markets; through their efforts grant that all the hungry be fed.

Pastor: *"You crown the year with Your bounty." (Ps.65:11)*

Assistant: Let us pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, those who lack adequate clothing or shelter, and all burdened with financial debt.

People: O Holy Spirit, open doors of opportunity so that they may provide for themselves and their families, rejoicing in all Your good gifts.

Pastor: *Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

People: Amen.

OFFERING

Offering will be collected at the door

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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

Pastor: Jesus has sown the Word of God's kingdom in the world.

People: We have heard your Word, Sower of Truth. Let it grow in our hearts.

Pastor: Many who hear the Word never bear fruit.

People: Heavenly Sower, let us go beyond hearing.

**Give us understanding, depth, and single-mindedness,
So that our lives bear the fruit that gives you joy.**

Pastor: Your lives are meant to bear fruit for God. May you hear with your innermost hearing, and may you understand all that God has planted in you, even to the depths of your soul. In the name of the Father, Son, ☩ and Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown - LSB 921:1-2



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.

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POSTLUDE

On What Has Now Been Sown - Charles Callahan