



**ST. MATTHEW TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Where tradition and inclusivity meet.



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOBOKEN, NJ



Divine Worship
Pentecost VI
July 12, 2020

Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead 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 and Thanksgiving for Baptism

At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one

another.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into the darkness, called beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Indeed, we give you thanks,

for in the beginning you created us in your image

and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,

and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,

and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,

for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Apostolic Greeting *II Corinthians*

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 root it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior Lord.

Amen.

First 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 and new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

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,
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.

Psalm: Psalm 65:1-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

1You are to be praised, O I God, in Zion;
to you shall vows I be fulfilled.

**2To you, the one I who answers prayer,
to you all I flesh shall come.**

3Our sins are strong- I er than we are,
but you blot out I our transgressions.

4Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your I courts to dwell there!

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness I of your temple. R

5Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of I our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans I far away.

**6You make firm the mountains I by your power;
you are girded a- I bout with might.**

7You still the roaring I of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor I of the peoples.

**8Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your I marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to I sing for joy. R**

9You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is I full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide I for the earth.

**10You drench the furrows and smooth I out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and I bless its increase.**

11You crown the year I with your goodness,
and your paths over- I flow with plenty.

**12May the fields of the wilderness be I rich for grazing,
and the hills be I clothed with joy.**

13May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- I selves with grain;
let them shout for I joy and sing. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened in 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, 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. 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, and you are dead in sin, then since he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That 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!"

"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."

Meditation - *Pastor LeCroy*

Reflection

First, simply listen to the parable itself (vss. 1-9): the dominion of God is like someone sowing seed in a very hard

a place impossible for growing, full of death. Yet, against all expectation, astonishing growth takes place, yielding great harvest. That image gives us a way to talk about Jesus' death and resurrection and its meaning for us. We a hard place and a hard time. And we ourselves are full of death. Jesus shares our death, yet he becomes the sower beginning of the great harvest. Because of him, the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead comes down like rain. We and all the earth are being made to live and sing. Then, second, use the explanation (vss. 18-23) to justify the parable yourself: by God's mercy, receive the life-giving word as if you were good soil; listen to the word of God, the gospel, and bear a harvest of love for your neighbor. The very trees will clap their hands.

Hymn

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



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

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

Prayers of Intercession

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- The Family of **Richard Altomare** (friend of Mark Singleton)
- Thanksgiving for the quick recovery of **Humberto Arango** (husband of Richard Brode)
- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- The Family of **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral service provided by our congregation, who died from Covid19)
- **Carol and Donna** (friends of Leslie Neve)
- The family of **Dawn Ennis** (who died of Covid19), (sister-in-law of Pamela Pater-Ennis).
- **Zoia "Charlie" Foster** (Pastor's niece)
- The Family of **Sean Gustwiller** (friends of Courtney Kochuba)
- We give thanks for the life of **Arthur Jusu-Davies**, a member of St Matthew Trinity who passed away during last week of May.
- **The Rev. Tom and Janice Kildea, and their children James and Jenny**, at the death by suicide of their o

son and brother, **Amani**, on June 28. Along with the Kildea family, we also hold in prayer **the congregator Redeemer, Succasunna**, where Pastor Kildea serves.

- **Gary LeCroy, Sr.** (Pastor's dad recovering from surgery).
- The family of **Francis Ng** (who died from Covid19), (friend of Dan Stoll)
- The Family of **Charles Powers** (friends of the Meusel family who died from Covid19)
- The Family of **Rosa Reyes** (friend of the church who died from Covid19)
- **John Weakland** (Brian Weakland's Father)
- The family of **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (Covid victim funeral by ur parish)

Praying separately in our homes yet united in the Spirit, let us together intercede for all the needs of the world. In response to each bid, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud, and to conclude each petition with words, **"Your mercy is everlasting."**

A brief silence.

We pray for our congregation and for all the churches in our neighborhoods.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for missionaries and for newly planted congregations around the world.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for those for whom growth in faith is difficult.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for farms and fields that are devastated by drought.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for all animals in search of water.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for everyone who is suffering from the heat.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for the government of our country, state, and county.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for our society to be purged of racism.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for those without jobs or health care.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for medical workers and researchers.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for all who are sick.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray for all who are burdened by anxiety.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

We pray, each of us, for ourselves.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting

We thank God for Nathan Söderblom, whom we commemorate today, for all who were dedicated to ecumenism, a all who have died in the faith.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us:

your mercy is everlasting.

O merciful God, receive these prayers, and grant us your Spirit of peace and joy, increase our hope, and deepen love, for the sake of the world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

**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.**

Or

**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.**

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540

Saturday, July 11, 2020

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

Sunday, July 12, 2020

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566

Friday, July 17, 2020

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Granted a large estate with indigenous slaves, he freed them after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 92. **Tuesday** Ephesians 4:17—5:2. **Wednesday** Proverbs 11:23-30. **Thursday** Psalm 86:11-17.

Friday(commemoration of Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566) Hebrews 6:13-20. **Saturday** Matthew 7:15-20. **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 44:6-8 *or* Wisdom 12:13, 19; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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