



*"Listen! A sower went out to sow."
St. Matthew 13:3*

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2020 — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

8271 Whispering Pines Road

Daphne, Alabama 36526

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Rev. Richard H. Mueller

Pastor

Joy M. Sullivan

Parish Musician

Steve Horlebein

Parish Administrator

"Come, Celebrate with Us"

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WELCOME, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! To assist the office staff in serving you, **please sign the yellow Attendance & Communion Registration sheet included in the bulletin.** We also ask first time worshippers to sign the guest book on the table near the doors.

Please direct all pastoral care concerns to Pastor, Rich Mueller at 914-388-2240.



Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We face the font, remembering God's promise of forgiveness in baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore

declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

533, “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.



Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

***C:* And also with you.**

P: 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.

***C:* Amen.**

Word

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

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM (*Spoken in unison*)

65:1-13

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

[¹You 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.**

³Our sins are strong- | er 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. R**

⁵Awesome 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 a- | bout with might.**

⁷You 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. R

] ⁹You 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.**

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

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,**

and the hills be | clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

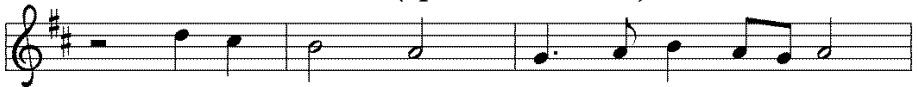
There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For 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, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For 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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.


⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Spoken in unison*)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Linda Veren

SERMON

Rev. Richard H. Mueller

HYMN OF THE DAY

[516, "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 Caswood, 1775–1852, alt.
 Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

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.

THE PRAYERS *(Stand or kneel)*

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, care for all who are in need (*especially*). 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 (*especially*) and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died (*especially Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, whom we commemorate today*). Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Your offering can be left in the baskets provided near the entrance of the sanctuary.*

OFFERTORY HYMN *(Spoken in unison)*

[186, "Create in Me a Clean Heart"](#)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken in unison)*

The Lord be with you. And al-so 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.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The minister continues with the Words of Institution

Continue with the Lord's Prayer

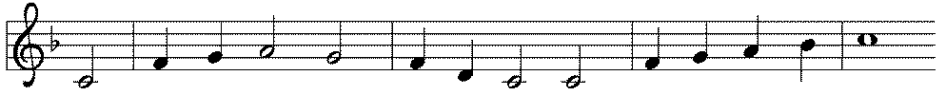
C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

COMMUNION

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Christ is truly present in this sacrament. We trust the Word, "The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you." By Christ's invitation, all baptized people of God are welcome to receive Christ's gift of love and mercy. Cups are available to receive wine from the Worship Assistant's pouring chalice. If grape juice is preferable, it is available in the tray the Acolyte carries.

Those not wishing to participate in Holy Communion may come forward and receive a blessing. Please notify the usher if you are unable to come forward, but wish to commune in your seat. Approach the altar from the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle.



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN

[461, "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"](#)



- 1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth- er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993
 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding minister may say a table blessing.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

C: Amen

The assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

A: God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

[550, "On What Has Now Been Sown"](#)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "On What Has Now Been Sown". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: 1 On what has now been sown your blessing Lord, bestow; the 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our powers; ac- 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now meet before you here, may pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in cept what is your own and pardon what is ours. Our praises, meet together thus when you and yours appear, and follow grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise! Lord, and prayers receive and to your word a blessing give. you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Announcements for Sunday, July 12, 2020

TO KEEP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those worshipping for the first time at Holy Trinity. Cancer/Illness: **Joyce Dyas, Danny Inlow, Bruce Peterson, Dot Peterson and Wade Winslow;** Those serving in military, firefighters & law enforcement including: **Marc Alverson, Daryl Bogle, Adam and Cathryn Cormier, Steve Duke, Shawn Ethington, Brent Massey, Jordan Miller, Christopher Mueller, Rich Peacock, Derrick Thorsrud and Dylan Winslow;** Holy Trinity's Mission Partner: **Martin Luther Lutheran Church – Mobile, AL and Pastor Kathryn Love;** ELCA Leaders: **SE Synod Bishop Rev. Kevin Strickland, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Pastor Rich Mueller.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our stewardship last week: Attendance – 33 Offerings - \$4,485.00.

SCRIPTURE JULY 19: *Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Today 10:00am Service of Holy Communion
Tues., Jul. 14 9:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours
2:00pm – 5:30pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons
Wed., Jul. 15 9:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours
Reminder: Income Taxes Due
Thurs., Jul. 16 9:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours
1:00pm – 3:30pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons
5:00pm – 6:30pm Worship & Music Commission meeting
Sat., Jul. 18 8:00am Yoga Class
Sun., Jul. 19 9:00am **Cancelled:** Sunday School
9:00am **Cancelled:** Choir Practice
10:00am Service of Holy Communion

Birthdays:

Denise Clark (7/14) Debi Horlebein (7/17) George Eckenstler (7/18)

Anniversaries:

Fred & Toni Fassbender (7/12 38 yrs) John & Carol Parnell (7/16 39 yrs)
Tom & Ann Young (7/17 55 yrs) James & Melissa Tesch (7/17 18 yrs)

Assisting in Worship

Presiding Minister	Rev. Richard H. Mueller
Musician	Joy M. Sullivan: Piano Steve Horlebein: Guitar
Assisting Minister	Tommy Fuller
Acolyte	Anna Thorsrud
Lector	Franklin Lamb
Cantor	Tommy Fuller
Children's Sermon	Linda Veren
Altar Guild	Kathy Fuller
Greeters	Ann & Rick Massey
Ushers	Rich Peacock, Sarah Howell & Jim Ethington
Tellers	Diane MacShane & Jeff Ramsland
Flower Pickup (<i>Saturday, July 18</i>)	Ramslands

The flowers at the Alter today are given to the Glory of God with Great Thanksgiving by Betty Madison and in honor of all those affected by the COVID-19 virus.



PURPOSE STATEMENT

God's purpose for Holy Trinity is to grow faith that moves us beyond ourselves.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Faithfully living with Christ at the center.
2. Prayerfully listening with open hearts and minds.
3. Selflessly welcoming all without preconceptions.
4. Courageously bearing our neighbor's burdens
5. Relating to one another with respect and honesty
6. Boldly sharing our blessings with other.

JULY 12, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



taking
faith
home

God delivers abundant harvests.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-112	Light from the Lord's law
Thursday	Genesis 25:19-34	Esau and Jacob
Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Give with generosity
Saturday	Psalms 65:1-13	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. **Psalm 65:5 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of abundant grace and mercy, help us to receive your word of life that we may be your good soil to grow in faith and share your word with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for your eternal care that blesses us with daily food through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Through the Spirit of Christ, may you go out in joy, and be led back in peace. (Isaiah 55:12)



JULY 12, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

As Rain from the Clouds



taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Do you talk about your faith as part of daily conversations? Why or why not?
- Have you ever planted a garden? If so, what was it like?
- How does God's word get planted into your life like a seed planted into good soil?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 55:10-13.

Yes, we have an awesome God, as noted in Psalm 65:5. In Isaiah 55 that awesomeness is expressed through God's word that is powerful. It does what God intends. It is productive. Isaiah 55 announces the return from exile for God's people. God's word, God's will shall accomplish it. This text is often used at the ordination of a pastor or a deacon. However, could we not also use it at weddings, baptisms, and any other occasion that celebrates God's people living together in faith, hope, and love? God's word is given for all of us to speak aloud to one another for our encouragement and growth in life and faith. God's word at a meal creates thankful hearts for the abundance of God's love with daily food. God's word at morning, evening, or at bedtime reminds us of the eternal care of God as those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and for whom there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1 and 11). Let's be wasteful as we cast God's word into all the corners of the earth, landing on all kinds of soil that God's word may sprout and produce an abundant harvest (Matthew 13:23). Who has blessed you with God's word recently? How did it impact your life?

Pray: Creative God, may the Spirit of Christ create in me the good soil to receive your word and grow in grace. Amen.

SERVICE



Plants of the earth not only serve as metaphors for the kingdom of God, but of God's life sustaining work in creation. Join a community garden, plant a garden in your own yard, or find a way to support the vital work of local farmers.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



"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" (Matthew 13:23a). Take a sheet of paper and write "Good Soil" across the bottom. Draw a fruit tree with a trunk, leaves, and fruit. On each drawing of fruit, write different ways you show God's love to others. Read what you have written and think or talk about how your "fruits" help you and others grow in their faith.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

PANDEMIC WORSHIP ADAPTATIONS

Thank you and God for being part of our worship together. To protect you and other worshippers Holy Trinity is following CDC, our synod and Alabama state recommendations as extra precautions. Here is a summary of our temporary worship adaptations that we ask everyone to respect and abide by while attending services. If you have any questions, simply ask one of our ushers.

1. Bringing and wearing a mask is strongly encouraged, especially if you cannot maintain six feet of separation from others. If you do not have a mask with you we have a small supply on hand. Hand sanitizer is plentiful.
2. It is imperative that everyone completes an attendance card. Please do so as this information would be critical if we ever need to complete contact tracing and stem a potential outbreak.
3. Please bring your own writing instrument for completing attendance cards, taking notes, etc. If you do not have one with you, ask an usher for a pen or pencil. We sanitize them before and after each service.
4. Maintain six feet separation between families for adequate social distancing once entering the building, while in the sanctuary, and until you leave the building.
5. Only the main entrance is being used. As you enter the building please pick up a bulletin in the Narthex and proceed directly to the sanctuary. The doors will remain open during worship services to optimize ventilation.
6. **Singing will be limited to only a soloist** for a while. Our usual musical accompaniment remains.
7. Passing of the Peace is curtailed for now. Opportunities always remain for a "stay in place" wave or some other safe gesture.
8. Restroom doors at the end of the hallway will remain open to minimize your physical contact with any other objects. Multiple anti-bacterial soap dispensers are inside. Since the narthex restroom does not afford adequate privacy, it is not available.
9. The offering and attendance cards will not be collected during the service but may be dropped in the labelled baskets on either side of the sanctuary. Please be sure to complete and place your attendance card in the basket before you leave.
10. Communion is being administered by family/seating unit at the front of sanctuary. This might take a little longer, but please maintain six feet from the worshipers around you. Follow the usher's guidance when it's your turn, approach from the center aisle, and exit to the left and return to your seats.
11. After the worship service please proceed to the building exit, taking with you as you leave all paper, writing instruments, bibles, precious stones, popcorn or any other items. Please be safe by being patient.
12. Temporarily, the narthex cabinets are locked and inaccessible. Hence, we do not have access to our mail folders and we are not wearing our name tags.
13. Following worship services we are not hosting any hospitality. Please avoid entering the Fellowship Hall or the classrooms.
14. The sanctuary and other common spaces are being cleaned and disinfected after each Sunday's worship.

Welcome Back!

