

Pentecost +6

July 12, 2020 + 9:00 AM

Welcome to our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ! Today we're reminded that God's word of life is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation; it's also like seeds broadly cast upon all sorts of soil. To our efficiency-obsessed minds, such a style of "sowing" sounds like a ridiculous waste— yet even from what appears to be little, dormant, dead, or just completely lacking in potential, God promises a harvest. Today God sows that same life-giving Word in our hearts with that same ridiculous profligacy; and who knows what the Holy Spirit will make of it? Prepare to be surprised by relentless, defiant, life...

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

ELW 533

See page 12 of this bulletin for the music.

*Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion; let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!*

*Gracious God, I come before Thee— come Thou also unto me!
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter Thou, let it be Thy temple now!*

*Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, here Thy seed is duly sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.*

*Thou my faith increase and quicken; let me keep Thy gift divine;
Howsoe'er temptations thicken, may Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, as my comfort in all strife.*

*Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee, let Thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near Thee while Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes!*

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

Blest are You, O Lord, our God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit!

*Your steadfast love for us is everlasting;
Your faithfulness endures from generation to generation!*

Yet even though You love us so, we've strayed from Your grace and mercy
and wandered into wastelands of sin.

*We don't trust in Your abundance, and we deny Your presence in our lives;
We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.*

We've put our own security and success over the blessing of Your whole creation.

We're afraid of difference and don't welcome others as You've welcomed us.

Again and again, we've tried to claim freedom on our own terms,

but have only bound ourselves more tightly in chains of slavery to sin:

Silence for personal reflection and confession

For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us!

*By Your grace, forgive us; through Your love, renew us;
and in Your Spirit, lead us, that we may live and serve You in newness of life. Amen.*

Hear the Good News, brothers and sisters: God loves you with passion, and always will!
Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our + Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Spirit keeps you in eternal life.
So rejoice in God's love— you're forgiven and free! *Amen. Thanks be to God!*

The peace of the Lord is with you always.

And also with you.

Reconciled to God and to one another, we share a sign of Christ's peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Sing of the Lord's Goodness" RWS 211

See page 13 of this bulletin for the music. (And think Dave Brubeck's "Take 5"...)

*Sing of the Lord's goodness; Father of all wisdom, come to Him and bless His name!
Mercy He has shown us; His love is forever, faithful to the end of days.*

REFRAIN:

*Come, then, all you nations, sing of the Lord's goodness,
Melodies of praise and thanks to God!
Ring out the Lord's glory! Praise Him with your music;
Worship Him and bless His name!*

*Power He has wielded; honor is His garment; risen from the snares of death.
His word He has spoken, one bread He has broken; new life He now gives to all.*

refrain

*Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow Spirit of our God most high,
Solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner, splendor of the living God.*

refrain

*Praise Him with your singing, praise Him with the trumpet,
Praise Him with the lute and harp;
Praise Him with the cymbals, praise Him with your dancing—
Praise God till the end of days!*

refrain

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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

And also with you.

Then let's 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 Your Son, Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Sung to the tune of "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" ELW 533

***Alleluia! Lord and Savior, open now Your saving Word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred!
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that You bring.***

FIRST READING:**Isaiah 55.10-13**

NIV

God proclaims to His people in exile: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and don't return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is My word that goes out from My mouth: It won't return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹² You'll go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn bush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This'll be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign that'll endure forever."

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:**Romans 8.1-11**

NLT

St Paul writes: So now there's no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law couldn't do; He sent His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

⁹ But you're not controlled by your sinful nature; you're controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who don't have the Spirit of Christ living in them don't belong to Him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you've been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He'll give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

This is holy wisdom; this is holy word.

Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23**

NLT

See ELW 172 for the tune.

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah!***

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. ²A large crowd soon gathered around Him, so He got into a boat. Then He sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. ³He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand...

¹⁸“Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: ¹⁹The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. ²⁰The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. ²²The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. ²³The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

***Christ, the Song of Love Incarnate, touching earth with heaven’s grace,
For Your living, suffering, dying, for Your rising, hear our praise!
Alleluia, Lord of life! Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!***

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

ELW 516

See page 14 of this bulletin for the music.

***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 Your precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow,
That all whose souls the truth receive its saving pow’r may know.***

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Most of the time, we tend to think of “believing” in terms of intellectual assent, what we understand to be true. But Martin Luther rightly recognized that faith isn’t just a matter of what we know about God, but what we do with that knowledge— that faith is primarily a matter of **trust** in the One whom we believe. Just as Jesus prayed from the cross in the words of the psalmist “Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit,” so we respond to the Word by entrusting ourselves to the One to whom the Word testifies. This “Response to the Word” seeks to do this liturgically, working from the words of our Baptismal creed and two simple canticles. (See p. 15 in this bulletin for the music.)*

Father, I adore You, lay my life before You—how I love You!
Father, I adore You, lay my life before You—how I love You!

I entrust my life to You, O God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

***Father, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set Your seal upon my heart and live in me...***

Jesus, I adore You, lay my life before You—how I love You!
Jesus, I adore You, lay my life before You—how I love You!

***I entrust my life to You, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son, our Lord.
For You were conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary;***

*You suffered under Pontius Pilate, were crucified, died, and were buried.
You descended into hell. On the third day You rose again.
You ascended into heaven and are seated at the right hand of the Father.
You'll come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*Jesus, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set Your seal upon my heart and live in me...*

*Spirit, I adore You, lay my life before You—how I love You!
Spirit, I adore You, lay my life before You—how I love You!*

*I entrust my life to You, God the Holy Spirit.
I entrust to Your keeping Your holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*Spirit, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set Your seal upon my heart and live in me...*

PRAYER

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Sung to the tune of "He Leadeth Me" LBW 501

*Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon Your Table.
We do not worship as we ought, but only as we're able.
Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares, we lift in prayer before You;
Lord, by Your grace now come to us as humbly we adore You.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Called into unity with God, with one another, and with the whole creation,
let's pray for the Church and the world we share together:

Good and gracious God, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who came among us as one of us to deal with the sin that divides us and to sow within us an abundant harvest of peace and righteousness. Nourish and nurture the seeds You've planted, that we may grow as Your disciples. Replace what's been depleted among us; sustain our ministries and deepen relationships with the wider community.

Creative God, in Your praise the mountains and the hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands. We pray for the birds and animals who make their homes in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Inspire us to care for the well-being of Your good creation, and direct us toward sustainable living.

Sovereign God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for true justice and equity for all. Bridge the chasms between us and our enemies, and guide nations and communities to a deep and lasting peace. Set us all free from the fear that breeds hatred, violence, and stinginess; heal the hearts of those who've been wounded or violated by others; still the storms of terror and warfare that ravage so many; and move us to compassion for those who live in poverty, that all people may know the freedom that rightfully belongs to Your children.

God of our journeys, watch over our young people preparing for college or new endeavors in life, especially those going away for the first time. Guide them as they adapt to being on their own, and help them to make wise decisions, new friends, and fresh discoveries of the vistas of Your grace and call.

Healing God, have mercy on our brothers and sisters in any need. Renew the faith of those who are doubting; bring release to those who are worrying; ease the burdens of those who are struggling; and fill the fearful with hope in You. Bring healing and newness of life to those who are sick, lonely, or abused; have mercy on those struggling with the coronavirus, including our medical workers; and renew the spirits of all who call upon You. We especially seek Your healing grace for our brothers and sisters...

Other prayers may be included here.

God of resurrection victory, we give You heartfelt thanks for the faithful leadership and service of those who've died and now rest in You. Continue to build us up in the sure and certain hope born of Christ's resurrection.

For into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord, who's taught us to pray:

***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.*

SENDING

BENEDICTION:

Now may God our Creator sow in you the seeds of an abundant harvest;
may Christ Jesus the Word be a lamp for your steps;
may the Holy Spirit give life to you, body and soul;
and Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: “On What Has Now Been Sown” ELW 550

See page 16 of this bulletin for the music.

*On what has now been sown, Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow’r is Yours alone to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and Yours alone shall be the praise!*

*To You our wants are known, from You are all our pow’rs;
Accept what is Your own and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive and to Your word a blessing give.*

*Oh, grant that each of us, now met before You here,
May meet together thus when You and Yours appear,
And follow You to heav’n, our home. E’en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL:

God has a plan.

We’re it!

What’s our part in God’s plan?

Sharing God’s love in joyful service!

Then let’s go in peace, live in joy, and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Efficiency or Liberality?

Contrast the “purpose-driven life” of God in Christ with the “results-driven life” or the “efficient life” we so often pursue:

Jesus’ parable of the prodigal sower is downright insane to those of our modern age who demand efficiency— economy of action that produces observable, measurable, and hopefully plentiful results.



Part of the surprise of Jesus’ parable is that the sower spreads the seed of the Word liberally—even prodigally and wastefully— **and yet** the harvest is abundant! Instead of “Waste not, want not”, Jesus is saying, “Give, share, spread the seed of God’s grace as widely as your reach allows—even if it seems wastefully— and want not, because God will abundantly provide!” It’s a challenge to our whole traditional sense of stewardship, in that it seems to throw thoughtful caution and careful investment to the wind...

Or is it actually at the very heart of our stewardship: that ***we share freely and abundantly, not out of fear of scarcity or the imperative of self-preservation, but out of graceful freedom empowered by God’s abundance of grace?*** Consider the following reflections by Jim Schmitmeyer:

*There’s a modern-day reality beneath the ancient words. It’s called “**risk reduction.**” This reading isn’t about weeds and seeds. It’s about the stiff odds of making a profit— in other words, “Risk Reduction”— because, truth be told, that’s the critical issue farmers have had to live with for centuries.*

*Think about it: When you bet everything you’ve got and the outcome’s not guaranteed— well, you know you’re gambling big time! And farmers are among the world’s biggest gamblers— always were, always will be! It’s an old story. The higher the stakes, the harder they work: not just to control the weeds, but to control every single variable they can. Why? **To try to reduce the financial risks as best they can!** Farming is about taking risks. And if GPS is going to keep some seed from being wasted on poor soil, by God, you’re going to go that route— if you can get the loan to do it, that is!*

*So don’t think this parable has lost its punch. In a country where only 2% of the population produces an overabundance of food, the meaning of this passage goes deeper than ever before: **When you hear this parable, think “risks.” Specifically, think about God taking a risk!***

After all, this parable’s more about God than agriculture. But if you grasp the financial risks of the farmer, go the next step and consider the extreme and improbable risks that God takes by planting His Word in a world like ours:

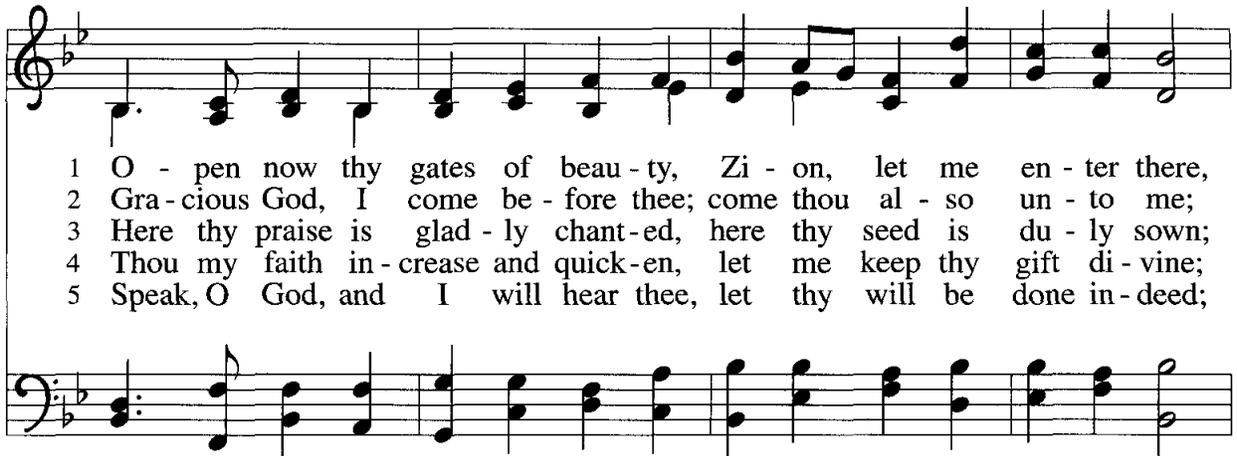
What are the chances that the Word of God will take root and yield a good harvest? Even from God's side of the equation, the odds aren't promising. Ever try talking love to a terrorist? Ever try mentioning forgiveness to the family members of a murder victim? Do you think the word "compassion" has a fighting chance in a gang war? What about the notion of truth in a heated political campaign? Does the phrase "Sell what you have and give the proceeds to the poor" ever appear in real-estate brochures? When was the last time your financial adviser recommended investment in a not-for-profit agency? Do the words "praise and gratitude" play on the mind of a farmer with a GPS blinking on the dash of his tractor? Does a lab technician in a white smock realize that she's bowing in reverence to the Creator of the universe each time she peers through the lens of a microscope to study the workings and wonders of cellular regeneration? What are the chances?

*You and I might think the chances of the Word of God germinating in a fallen world are mighty slim. But as it turns out, **God's a gambler— a gambler of the most reckless sort, and yet a gambler who wins**— for as the poetry of Isaiah reveals, the Word of God **swiftly runs upon the earth and doesn't return to the heavens void!** Indeed, each time you and I open the Bible or take time to pray or gather together around Word and Sacrament, more seeds are scattered, more risks are taken! Day after day, in the face of incredible odds, God hurls out the seed of the Word like a gambler throwing dice. It seems reckless— but reckless or not, faith takes root!*

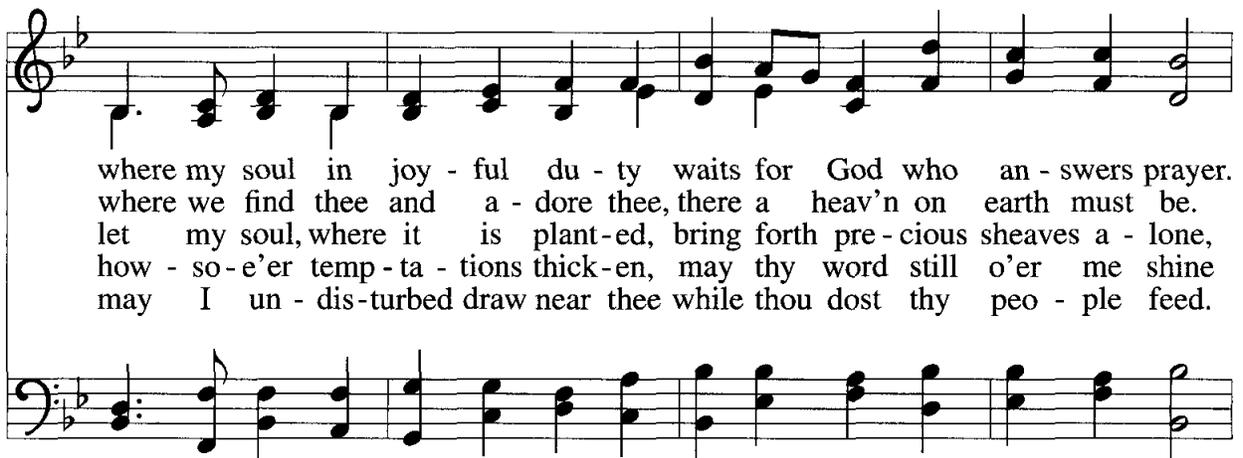
*Isaiah was confident in His conviction, and Jesus of Nazareth claimed it as a sure bet— God's Word yields its harvest. In arid hearts thirsty for God, seeds of faith **will** take root...*



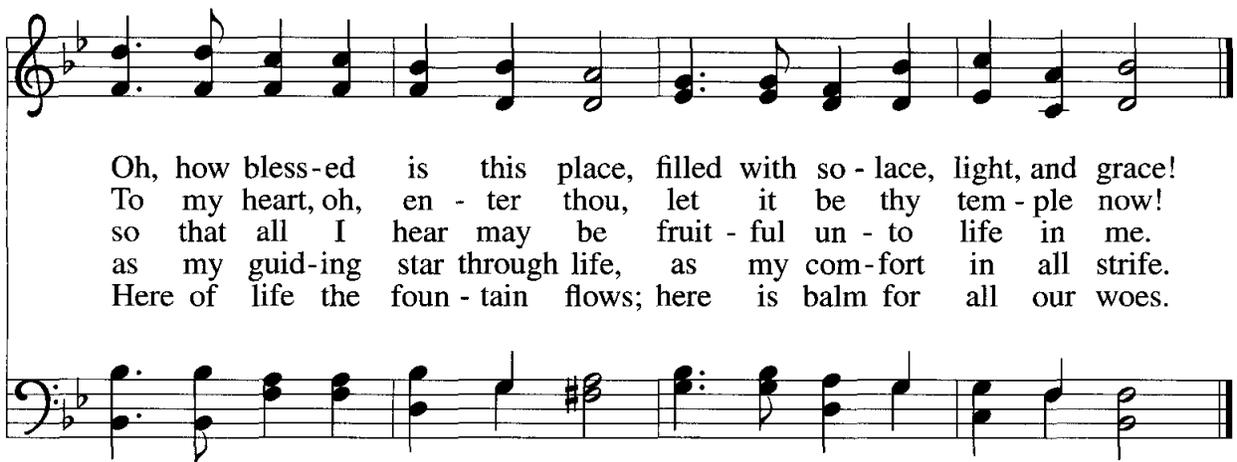
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



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.

Sing of the Lord's Goodness



1 Sing of the Lord's good - ness, Fa - ther of all wis - dom,
2 Pow - er he has wield - ed, hon - or is his gar - ment,
3 Cour - age in our dark - ness, com - fort in our sor - row,
4 Praise him with your sing - ing, praise him with the trum - pet,



come to him and bless his name. Mer - cy he has shown us,
ris - en from the snares of death. His word he has spo - ken,
Spir - it of our God most high; so - lace for the wea - ry,
praise him with the lute and harp; praise him with the cym - bals,



his love is for - ev - er, faith - ful to the end of days.
one bread he has bro - ken, new life he now gives to all.
par - don for the sin - ner, splen - dor of the liv - ing God.
praise him with your danc - ing, praise God till the end of days.



Refrain
Come then, all you na - tions, sing of the Lord's good - ness,



mel - o - dies of praise and thanks to God.

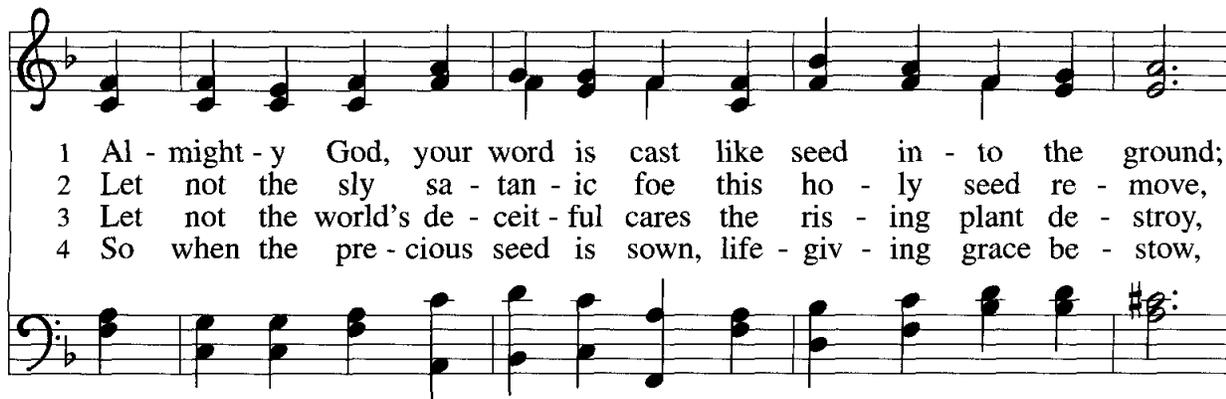


Ring out the Lord's glo - ry, praise him with your mu - sic,

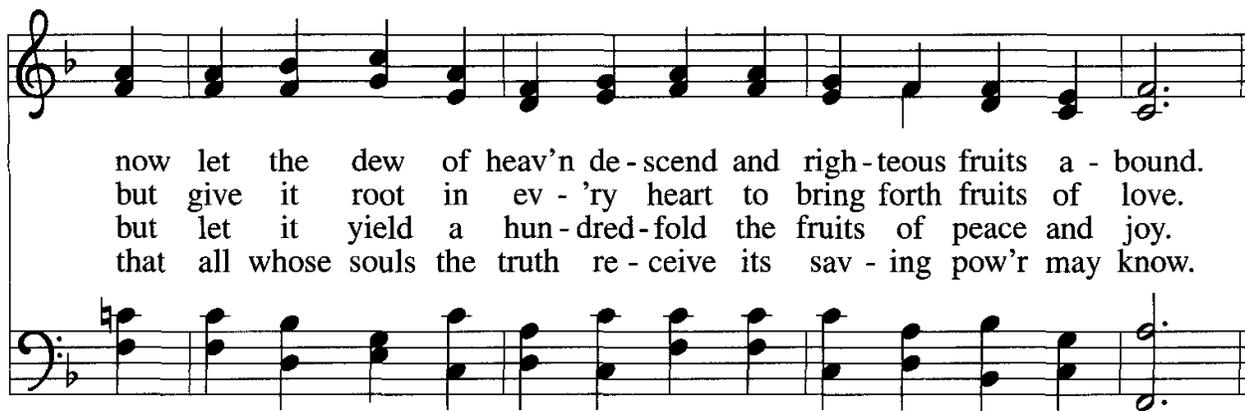


wor - ship him and bless his name.

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.

Father, I Adore You/ Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am

1* F Gm C F 2 Gm

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,

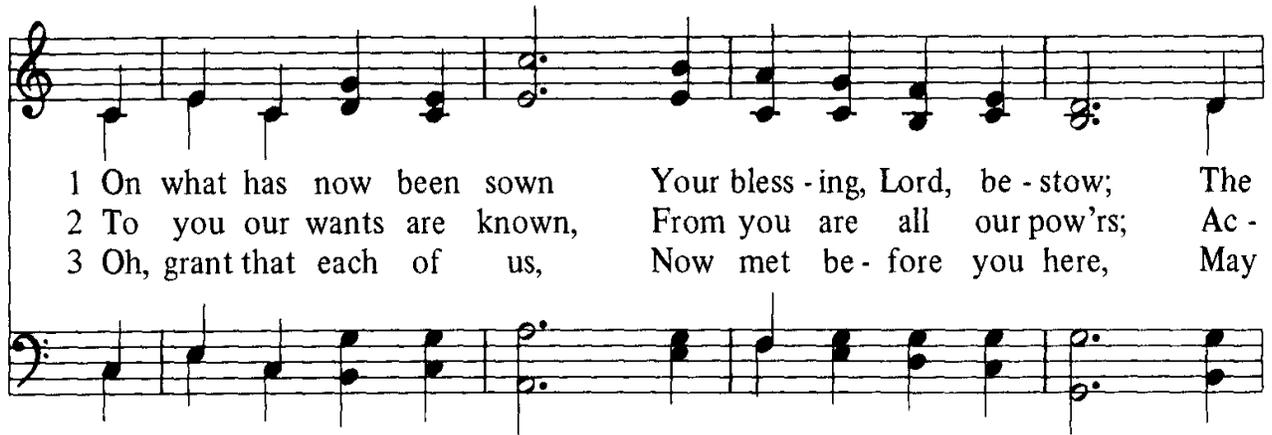
C F 3 Gm C F

fore you; how I love you.

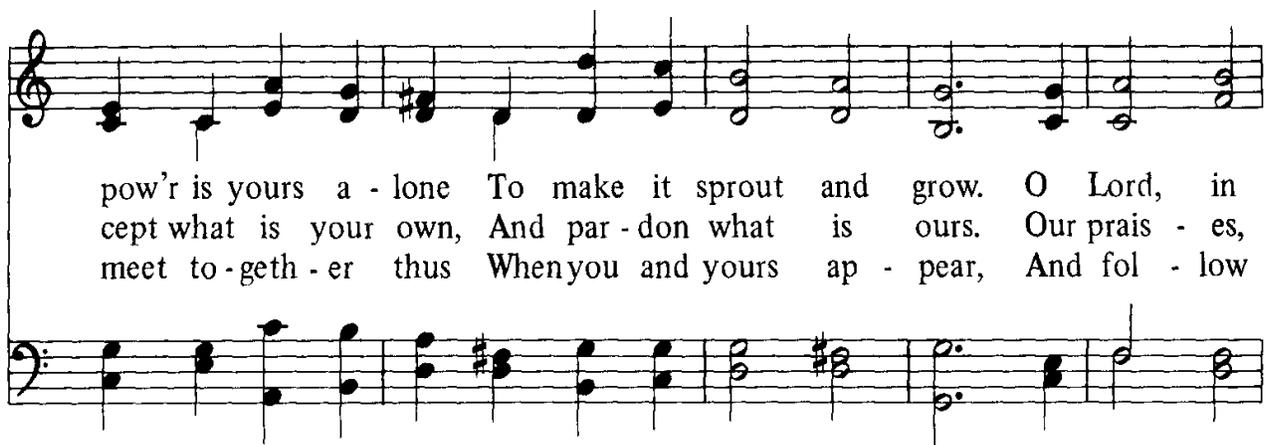
Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

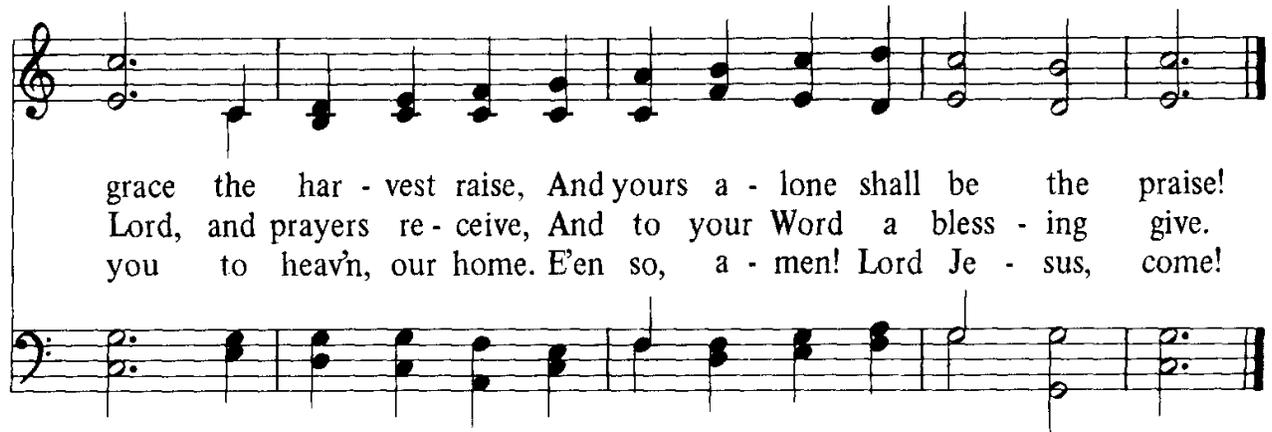
On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Your bless - ing, Lord, be - stow; The
2 To you our wants are known, From you are all our pow'rs; Ac -
3 Oh, grant that each of us, Now met be - fore you here, May



pow'r is yours a - lone To make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own, And par - don what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - geth - er thus When you and yours ap - pear, And fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, And yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to your Word a bless - ing give.
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

This Week at St Paul's

P = Parish House, F = Fellowship Hall

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Sun. 7/12 Pentecost +6 [Proper 10]	8:00 AM	Worship Livestream Setup
	9:00 AM	Service of Word, Prayer, and Thanksgiving: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour via Zoom *
Tues. 7/14	7:30 PM	Finance and Stewardship Team [via Zoom]
Thur. 7/16	10:00 AM	Bible Study via Zoom/FCC *
	7:00 PM	Scouts BSA Troop 007 [outside or via Zoom*]
Sun. 7/19 Pentecost +7 [Proper 11]	8:00 AM	Worship Livestream Setup
	9:00 AM	Holy Communion Online: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour via Zoom *

- * If you'd like to participate in any of our **activities taking place over Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID 3700147169, and if it asks for a password, use 119805 and you should be in. If you're using your phone, these dial-in numbers will work: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, then 119805# and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK:

- The Armed Forces, Crossroads Pregnancy Care, David Johnson Sr., Andrew Edmonds, Fay Barndt, Morgan, Ally, Dontay, & Emily Hassler, President Trump and his cabinet, Don & Karen Ludovici, Barbara Graser, Jordan Scholl, Kelsey Shaak, Bea Becknell, Niara Butler, Carole Eddings, Bob Knapp, Vicki Lasley, Ray Constable, Walter Rausch, Bob Westervelt, Carol Marks, Rosemary Bruno, Florence Zellers, Nick Wildman, Devin Morrison, Walt & Ryan, Bobby Lane, Evelyn Moyer, Alan West, Donald Bilger, Scott, Adam & Amanda, Aly Brown, Connie Slotter, Michelle, J.R., Lou, Jack, Cheryl Ball, Laura Ulrich, Doug Fay, Jimelle, Karen Berger, Gary Kratz, Jim, Bp. Stephen Munga, Tony Campolo, everyone struggling with COVID-19 and its containment.
- Families and friends of Bill Umstead, John Deily, James Diefenderfer, Linda Wakely, Joe Poltzer, Bill Stever, Tommy Neuman, Jack Maccarone, Scott Rittoper, Gino Bertorelli, George Cute, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Elijah McClain, Bill Pentecost, David Ziegler, Bill Barndt Sr.

This week's bulletins are given to the glory of God by Alison Brown in loving memory of Joe, Gloria, & Scott Rittoper and Michell & Elizabeth Brown.

Please ***don't forget to keep on giving to our ministries here at St Paul's!*** You can now do this in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for Simply Giving, you're already taken care of; [2] You can mail your offerings to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

Our Synod's Anti-Racism team invites you to join in some ***online synod conversations about race*** based on the book *America's Original Sin* by Jim Wallis. These interactive discussions, led by our Synod's Anti-Racism Team, will take place on Tuesday evenings from **7:00-8:15 PM** on **July 7 and 14**. You may participate in one or all of the conversations; you're also encouraged to read the book (go to smile.amazon.com to order). To join in these free interactive discussions, please register by sending an e-mail to Antiracism@sepa.org with your name and contact information. A link to connect to the conversation along with further information will be sent to you prior to the discussion. The Team looks forward to your participation in this new venture.

Come join us each week for our ***Thursday Morning Bible Study*** from **10:00-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference call. (See the previous page for information on accessing these platforms.) We're digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come join us and invite your friends as well!

This time of "sheltering in place" is a great opportunity to develop ***times and habits of prayer***. The Lutheran Book of Worship and the Book of Common Prayer have liturgies for morning, evening, and night prayer and daily readings as well (we're in Year Two for the readings). Online, dailyoffice@wordpress.com features daily Morning and Evening Prayer as well as a late night service. And for the daily lectionary (and short biographies of saints), go to www.satucket.com/lectionary. These times of Scripture and prayer can help you "redeem the time".

Summertime's also a great time to rediscover and readopt the ***"Faith 5"***, and perfect for incorporating into your dinner or bedtime routine for five to fifteen minutes a night. The five steps of the "Faith 5" are: [1] Share the ***highs and lows*** of your day; [2] ***read*** a Bible verse or story together; [3] ***talk*** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows; [4] ***pray*** for one another, giving thanks for highs and praying for lows; and [5] ***bless*** one another. (For more information on these practices, check out www.faith5.org.)

Quakertown Food Pantry News: The Food Pantry's hours are Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM and Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 PM. Monetary donations are welcome at **Quakertown Food Pantry, PO Box 278, Quakertown, PA 18951**. Food donations are also being accepted on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM and on normal shift days. Everyone must wear masks and gloves when dropping off food items. For updated information on our service at the Food Pantry, please contact Denise Shaeffer @ 215.536.7580. Thanks!

Our “**Monthly Special**” for the month of July is the **Bucks County Opportunity Council [BCOC]**, whose mission is to reduce poverty in our county and partner with the community to promote economic self-sufficiency through diligent case management, community education, and financial assistance. BCOC currently operates five programs in Bucks County: a food program, emergency services, a home energy program, volunteer income tax assistance, and economic self-sufficiency education. If you’d like to contribute to the monthly special this month, please mail a check to the church with “July Monthly Special” noted.

The Rev Dr Stephen Munga, Bishop of our companion synod, the Northeastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, recently fell ill with transient ischemic attacks; he needs emergency medical treatment and the closest doctor that can help is in South Africa. The cost for the air ambulance alone is \$37,000 on top of the costs for major heart surgery and recovery. So our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod is joining the Northeastern Diocese in supporting Bp Munga financially and in prayer in this time. Gifts to “**Healing the Heart,**” Bp Munga’s medical recovery fund, may be made payable to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, either by going to ministrylink.org/medical-appeal-bishop-munga/ and clicking on the secure gift button or by mailing your gift to the synod office (7241 Germantown Ave., Wiedemann Center, Philadelphia, PA 19119).

On the counsel of the majority of our ELCA bishops and theologians, we’ve been “fasting” from Holy Communion for quite a while now. But come mid-July, we’re going to step a little beyond the caution of the majority of our bishops and theologians; **we’re going to share in Holy Communion together “virtually” next Sunday, July 19.**

To do this, we’re going to need to work together; as much as possible, we all should do the same thing with this. Included below is a simple recipe for Communion bread; each of our households should make some of this bread— maybe enough to freeze some for use at a later date. And each household should get some wine or grape juice for Communion. Prepare the bread and the wine/grape juice and the altar/table and have it set and ready for July 19 at 9:00 AM (or as close to that time as you can get). When we gather for our worship livestream on that day, we’ll have the altar set with the bread and cup as well. When we get to the Words of Institution (“In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread...”), you’re invited to say those words with Pr Dave, touching and/or holding the bread and the cup as you do so. When it’s time to share the bread and the cup with each other, pass it to one another (or just receive it yourself if you’re alone— remember, we’re all together in this) with the words “The body of Christ, given for you” and “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

We’ll all be doing this **together** on that day, gathered **together** as one around the same Word as we share the bread and the cup **together**— and we trust that true to His word, the Lord Jesus will be fully present with us as well, in bread and wine and forgiving love. And though our “virtual gathering” will be “localized” in many places, we trust that our use of the same bread and wine and Word together will embody and strengthen our unity and holy communion in the Lord Jesus.

Communion Bread Recipe

Sift dry ingredients together **three times** (this is important):

- + 3 cups flour (2 c. whole wheat, 1 c. white if possible)
- + 1¼ tsp. baking powder
- + 1¼ tsp. salt

Stir in 4 tsp. [olive] oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

- + ¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. very hot water (180+° F)
- + 3 Tbsp. honey
- + 3 Tbsp. molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Don't knead the dough.

Divide dough into four balls and flatten each ball into a ¼-in. thick disk. With a knife, score a cross onto the top of each loaf (or score it like a pizza might be cut).

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350° F for 10 mins. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with [olive] oil. Then bake them for an additional 5 minutes. Then pull them out and let them cool. After sharing the bread in Holy Communion, after the service is over, reverently eat the rest of the loaf together.



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