

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship
Sunday, July 12, 2020 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost
<https://vimeo.com/437235069>

Prelude - Praeludium in D minor

by J. S. Bach

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn - Lord, Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

527

We gather in the name of the Father ☩ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

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.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

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.

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.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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.

Psalm 65:1-13

Refrain

Your paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty, O God, your
paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty.

Refrain

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. Refrain

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. Refrain**

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. Refrain

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.

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

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell

on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

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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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Abiding God, care for all who are in need, especially, Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, Charlie, JoAnn, Leon, Judy, Janet, Carol, Jim, Joyce, Barbara, Ida, Debbie, Larry, Blanche, Leslie, Jim, Bob, Ellie, Kaaren, Leigh, Bob, Kathy, Sue, and all those we name now in our hearts or on our lips. 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. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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 and deepen relationships with the wider community. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died, especially Sonja Bock. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

**Communion will be available in the church parking lot Sunday, from 10 to 11 am.
PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR. WE WILL COME TO YOU AND DELIVER A
WAFER AND WINE OR GRAPE JUICE. IT WILL BE SERVED TO YOU IN A FOAM
BOWL. PLEASE TAKE THE ELEMENTS AND DISTRIBUTE AMONG THOSE IN YOUR
VEHICLE AND THEN DISPOSE OF THE CUPS AND BOWL WHEN YOU GET HOME.**

Prayer after Communion

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.

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.

Sending Hymn - Rise Up, O Saints of God!

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Postlude - Postlude Festival

by J. C. H. Rinck

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, Charlie Bock, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Judy Schlegel, Janet Ravert, Carol and Jim Sackett, Joyce Veazey, Barbara Anderson, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Larry Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Jim Klausman, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Kaaren Johanson, Leigh Stock, Bob Lewis, Kathy Daniels, Sue Dahl

Our sympathy to the family of friends of Sonia Bock, who died on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. A family service was held in the columbarium. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Full obituary and online condolences may be found at www.clementsfuneralservice.com.

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - drop a note in the offering plate, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Byron Franzen (brother of David Franzen), Laura and Mike Smith (sister and her husband by Carol Sackett), Laura Williams (friend of

Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), JoAnn Sackett (daughter-in-law of Carol and Jim Sackett), Kate Genaitis, Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Tom and Mary Jakubus (friend of Deb Tabert), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Tristan and Hailey Hunter (relatives of Deb Tabert), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gary Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Rose (friend of Deb Tabert), Brady Laubert (grandson of Pam and Steve Taylor), Staci Dominick (daughter-in-law of Ted and Diana Dominick), Leonard Anderson, (family friend of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), Jane Craig (aunt of Pat Casper), Ruby Fox (cousin of Marlene Coulter), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter)

Devotions Needed

New dates through Saturday, July 25 for the daily devotions have been added to the Devotion Sign Up. If you are willing to write a daily devotion for the congregation please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily>. Please submit your devotion to Vicar Anna at least two days in advance of the publish date.

From Pastor Scott Anderson: We extend to you an invitation to a new initiative by the NC Synod of the ELCA concerning Racism and our desire for justice and equity. Their effort is another opportunity to engage in learning and conversation as well as develop new skills in our fight to overcome racial inequality. Follow this link to this initiative:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Special-e-News-From-the-bishop.html?soid=1101477504383&aid=NQtoMkx5b7E>. I would encourage you to consider participation in this effort.

Helping explain racism to children. There are two videos in the following link where Sesame Street Characters address Racism in a CNN Townhall and Abby supports Big Bird in the second video. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html>. Feel free to share the link.

Here is an article which helps Christians respond to Racism.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/racism/the-best-way-white-christians-can-respond-to-racial-tensions.html>

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Here is the info:

Topic: **Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar**

Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 Password: 292680

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Topic: **Bible Study - Acts** – You may download the lessons ahead of time by going to the home page of our website (stpaulsdurham.org)

Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGhUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 532 621

Password: 402561

The Continuing Conversation Group is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. The topic is "The Concept of Race through a Sociological Perspective." This will be a semi-lecture and conversation which allows questions as they arise. It should last about an hour.

Topic: **CCG and Congregation**

Time: Jul 15, 2020 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84531557926?pwd=R01KczEzaG1YdUVJV1VsbGZ1eFo5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 845 3155 7926

Password: 419213

Dear St. Paul's,

As congregation leaders plan for the near and farther future, we have developed a survey that we ask you to complete: <https://forms.gle/orUrR4JvW2dKbwGm8>

We are particularly planning for Vicar Anna's departure at the end of this month. She has been a blessing in many ways including her service as the editor of the recorded services you see on Vimeo. She did not have experience with such work before the need arose at St. Paul's, but she learned to do it and has developed a process that can readily be taught to others. Would you like to learn this valuable skill? We would like to assemble a team of 3-4 people who can take turns and support each other in this newly essential aspect of our ministry. If you would be willing to learn with Vicar Anna as she does the editing in the next two weeks, please send a message to vicar@stpaulsdurham.org and to council@stpaulsdurham.org.

God's blessings,

Tina Bessias

Congregation President

From Social Ministry:

Our collection during the month of June to "Good Gifts" resulted in the following items being sponsored:

1. Stock 20 children's backpacks with food (for weekends or holidays or pandemics)
2. Feed 50 people at a soup kitchen
3. Gave a month's supply of personal supplies and household necessities to families that lost their homes
4. One rooster

Many thanks for donations which enabled these Good Gifts to be realized.

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We have been blessed this year with the presence of Vicar Anna. She is nearing the end of her stay and internship with our congregation. In this strange and challenging year it has been the talents of Vicar Anna that have helped to provide the video services that allow us to continue with some normalcy to our worshipping together. I know there are lots of you who will want to honor her service to our church with a gift from your heart. She will be leaving at the end of July, only a month away.

We are trying to arrange a video of members saying goodbye and some type of get together to bid her a fond farewell. We ask that members video or take a snapshot of their goodbye/remembrance of Vicar Anna. For these digital messages, please send them to Tim Hoke by July 20 at tim1hnva@gmail.com and they will be edited into a video message to be delivered to her.

Please plan to participate in a drive-by farewell in the parking lot at St Paul's on Thursday, July 30 at 6:00 pm. If you would like to make a sign, decorate your car or bring a card, they will all be appreciated.

In Christ, with God's Grace and Peace

Tim Hoke, Co-Chair

Dear St. Paul's family,

I want to update you about what's happening in our building. It is still closed for most purposes, but staff are increasingly working from their offices. The sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation each weekday from 10-3. To use this opportunity, you should enter from the Cornwallis Rd. side of the building and follow instructions posted in the foyer. If you need to contact the staff, please use phone and email rather than dropping by. We all long for more in-person interaction, and the COVID-19 Task Force is drafting recommendations to Council about how we should proceed. Look for those to be published in the next couple of weeks.

The Preschool board recently came to the difficult decision to cancel its summer camps. Amanda Stoen and her team are focusing on planning for fall.

As a full time daycare, Wildflower Cottage is considered an essential service and began to reopen as soon as stay-at-home orders were relaxed. It started with very small groups of children and has gradually increased its numbers, adapting its program to take place mostly outdoors. I recommend a drive by the church building on weekdays--the grounds are full of activity!

To increase the amount of shaded space and create an outdoor shelter from rain, Wildflower requested to put up a tent on the Cornwallis Rd. side of the sanctuary. They noted that it would be available for congregational use on weekends. The council approved, and the task force will include the tent among available resources for outdoor worship and meetings.

As always, you are invited to share your concerns and suggestions with the council:

council@stpaulsdurham.org

Wishing you peace,

Tina