

Welcome and Blessings! We offer you thanks for celebrating this time together and give praise to our gracious God for your presence.

Introduction to the 6th Sunday after Pentecost

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Prelude

Gathering

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son (+), and Holy Spirit, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Reconciling God...

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn**

"We All Are One in Mission"

WOV p. 755

1. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.
2. We all are called to service, to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.
3. Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

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***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.**

Prayer of the Day

(See Celebrate)

Let us pray. ...

C **Amen**

Word

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13 (See Celebrate)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 65: 9-13 (See Celebrate)

Lector: A Reading from Romans.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11 (See Celebrate)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem

*Gospel Acclamation

(Spoken) LBW Page 83

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (See Celebrate)

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Spoken

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Spoken

Sermon

A Parable of Napkins

* Hymn of the Day

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

LBW p. 400

1 God, whose almighty word
Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

2 Lord, who once came to bring,
On your redeeming wing,
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind:
Oh, now to humankind
Let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,
Life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth your flight;
Move on the water's face
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!

4 Holy and blessed three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, love, might!
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth, far and wide,
Let there be light!

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

* Apostle Creed

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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**

(See Celebrate)

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

(Please use social distancing, but you may offer “peace be with you in American sign language.)

*** Sending Hymn**

“For the fruit of All Creation”

WOV p. 760

1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

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***Lord's Prayer**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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**

Sending

***Blessing**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father † and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

***Announcements and sharing time**

***Dismissal**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude