

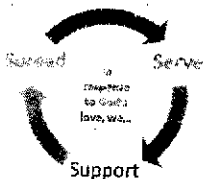
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we SERVE God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
And SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people*

Volume 76

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No. 28

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AS WE GATHER – *Plants in God's good earth respond to the showers He sends, producing plants for pasture and crops for harvest. It is all natural, and so is our producing fruit for God as His Word works through us. That God works through us sinners is all grace; if we but hear the Word and let the Spirit give us understanding, a bountiful harvest will follow. Jesus likens it to seeds producing yields of up to a hundredfold. But we are no mere plants, as Paul points out in the Epistle. Because we have been adopted by our heavenly Father, we are brothers and sisters of Christ, the children of God, calling out to Him, "Abba! Father!" Our growth in faith is indeed by the grace of God, and to Him belongs all the credit for the bountiful harvest He reaps through us.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

"Air"

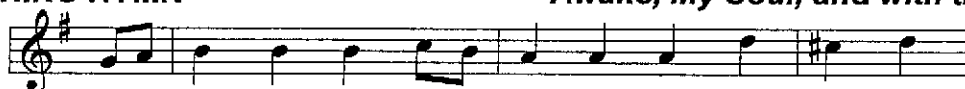
by Stacy Piontek

WELCOME

♯Means please stand; ♯Means please be seated]

♯OPENING HYMN

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly
2 In con - ver - sa - tion be sin - cere, Thy con - science
3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast re -
4 Lord, I my vows to Thee re - new; Dis - perse my



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and
as the noon - day clear; Think how the all - see - ing
fleshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from
sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
God thy ways And all thy se - cret thoughts sur - veys.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will And with Thy - self my spir - it fill.

5. Direct, control, suggest this day
All I design or do or say
That all my pow'rs with all their might
In Thy sole glory may unite.

6. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Tune and text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P *In the name of the Father and of the ~~F~~ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Isaiah 55:11–12; Psalm 32:5; 124:8; Matthew 13:23; Romans 8:16

P *Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P *I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,*

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P *In the today's Epistle, Paul reminds us that "the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Let us therefore go to our gracious heavenly Father, confessing our sins.*

[Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.]

P *In the Old Testament Reading, God promises, "My word . . . shall not return to Me empty; it shall accomplish . . . and shall succeed."*

C **But we do not trust You in all things. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, heavenly Father.**

P *Then God tells us, "You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace."*

C **But we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Hear us, free us, and lead us in paths pleasing to You, heavenly Father.**

P *In the Gospel, our Lord explains that "the one who hears the word and understands it . . . bears fruit." By the grace of God, we believe and understand that Jesus, the Word of God in the flesh, succeeded in destroying death and rising victorious for us. For His sake, God forgives us and uses us to bear fruit for Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ~~F~~ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Word planted inside you produce a great harvest for our gracious Lord.*

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

INTROIT

Psalm 103:15–19; antiphon: v. 8

P *The LORD is merciful and gracious,*

C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P *As for man, his days are like grass;*

C **he flourishes like a flower of the field;**

P *for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,*

C **and its place knows it no more.**

P *But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,*

C **and his righteousness to children's children,**

P *to those who keep his covenant*

C **and remember to do his commandments.**

P *The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,*

C **and his kingdom rules over all.**

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P *The LORD is merciful and gracious,*

C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

KYRIE

P *O Lord,*

C **have mercy on us.**

P *O Christ,*

C **have mercy on us.**

P *O Lord,*

C **have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.*

All: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:10–13

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

DUET SELECTION

“The Trees of the Field”

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:12–17

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Isaiah 40:8

All: Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

"THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER"

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

- I. As Jesus describes in the Parable of the Sower, the devil, the world and our sinful flesh threaten to choke out God's Word.
- II. But as the parable also describes, God's Word has the power to overcome sin and bring new life.

CATECHISM

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed & Explanation

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

☩ *Almighty God, hear the prayers of Your people, grant to us all things needful and beneficial, and keep from us all things harmful. Holy Lord, Mighty God, You are the strength of the hills and the hope of the ends of the earth. Give to our hearts Your perfect peace, that we may not be anxious nor live in fear but rest all our hopes, dreams and desires upon Your merciful goodness. Lord, in Your mercy,*

☩ **hear our prayer.**

P *Holy Lord, Mighty God, You send forth water upon the earth, that it may bring forth abundant fruit and feed our bodies with all that we need. Help us to be wise and faithful in the use of the rich bounty of the earth, that the poor may be supplied and that we never fail to give thanks to You for all You have given us for this body and life. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

P *Holy Lord, Mighty God, Your Word will not return to You empty but will accomplish Your purpose in sending it. By Your Holy Spirit, make our hearts good soil for Your Word to be planted, that we may give evidence of a sturdy faith and show forth in our lives the good works You have called us to do. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

P *Holy God, Mighty Lord, You have given power to the nations and those who govern to act for the good of Your people. Bless our president, the Congress, our governor and all those elected and appointed to lead us, that justice may prevail and Your people may be free to live at peace with all people. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

P *Holy God, Mighty Lord, You know how weak and frail we are. Give to those afflicted in mind, body or soul the fullness of Your healing grace, that according to Your will they may be restored to health. Hear us for all those suffering or recovering from the pandemic's ravages, for those who have requested our prayers [especially...], and for those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

P *In Him, with Him and through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, both now and forevermore.*

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P *O Lord Jesus Christ, 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.**

BENEDICTION

P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you His peace.*

C **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P *Go in peace as you serve the Lord.*

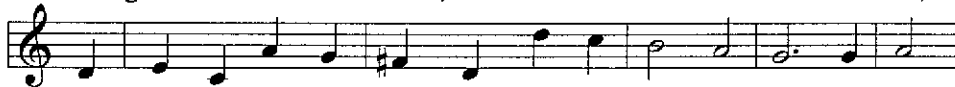
C **Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING HYMN

On What Has Now Been Sown



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



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
 Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
 May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
 es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
 low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Birthdays: *Naya Bere; Teri Cueva*]

POSTLUDE

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

by Lani Smith

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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this morning:

Altar Guild..... Elsie Leiker & Marisa Showalter
 Counter..... Carl Kurth
 Elder on Duty..... Doug Harder
 Organist / Music Director..... Beth Buss
 Special Music..... Warren Kettner & Marisa Showalter; Duet
 Seating Coordinator..... Al Axford
 Service Web Recorder..... Robert Showalter
 Service Live Streaming..... Stuart Ruwet
 Usher..... Phil Vandre

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