GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**Saturday, July 11, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, July 12, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.**

*Welcome to Grace Lutheran Chapel and to our worship with Holy Communion. As Lutheran Christians we believe and confess that Christ’s Body and Blood are present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. This meal benefits those who acknowledge and confess their sin and trust in Christ alone for their salvation. Where Christ’s true body and blood are present, so also is the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Baptized and instructed Christians who share in this belief are welcome to this meal of our Lord’s grace and forgiveness.*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “When Morning Gilds the Skies,” No. 807

**1 When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!” When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**2 When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!” God’s holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare With “Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**3 No lovelier antiphon In all high heav’n is known
    Than “Jesus Christ be praised!” There to the\_eternal Word
The\_eternal psalm is heard: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**4 Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find:
    “May Jesus Christ be praised!” Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”**

**5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,
    Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!” God’s whole creation o’er,
Both now and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

INVOCATION

 *In the name of the Father and of the* ✠ *Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

 **Amen.**

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

Pastor: *Our help is in the name of the Lord,*

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: *I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,*

 **People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: *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.)*

Pastor: *In the Old Testament Reading, God promises, “My word . . . shall not return to Me empty; it shall accomplish . . . and shall succeed.”*

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

Pastor: *Then God tells us, “You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.”*

**People: But we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Hear us, free us,**

 **and lead us in paths pleasing to You, heavenly Father.**

Pastor: *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, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the* ✠ *Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Word planted inside you produce a great harvest for our gracious Lord*.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Thy Strong Word,” No. 578, vv. 1, 5 and 6

**1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
 Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!**

**5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!**

**6 God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!**

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SALUTATION

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

**People: Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:10–13

**10**“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11**so 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. **12**“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. **13**Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

 This is the Word of the Lord.  **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLERomans 8:12–17

**2**So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. **13**For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15**For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17**and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

 This is the Word of the Lord.  **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:1–9, 18-23

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

 **Glory to You, O Lord.**

 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. **2**And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. **3**And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. **4**And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. **5**Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, **6**but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. **7**Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. **8**Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **9**He who has ears, let him hear.”

 **18**“Hear then the parable of the sower: **19**When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. **20**As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, **21**yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. **22**As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. **23**As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

 This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

 **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

 **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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “God’s Word Will Accomplish What He Desires”

 Isaiah 55:10-13 – Pastor Nate Ruback

SERMON HYMN “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast,” No. 577

**1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend And righteous fruits abound.**

**2 Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.**

**3 Let not the world’s deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.**

**4 So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow’r may know.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH*Psalm 65:2–5, 9, 11*

Pastor: *We use today’s psalm as we pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various circumstance.

David writes, “O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come.” Let us pray for those near and dear to us, who call to God in their distress.*

**People: Heavenly Father, visit, relieve, restore, and console them in Your mercy, and use us to help meet their needs.**

Pastor: *David writes, “When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.” Let us pray for all who are wrongly accused or imprisoned by corrupt court systems.*

**People: Lord of the nations, give them justice, clear their names, and free them; move governments to make reforms where they are needed.**

Pastor: *David writes, “We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple.” Let us pray for the Church here and around the world.*

**People: O Holy Spirit, bless, protect, and guide Your people as they proclaim the Gospel, and invite one and all to the joys of Your mercy, forgiveness, and love.**

Pastor: *David writes, “By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness.” Let us pray for all who make, administer, and adjudicate their nation’s laws and seek peace across borders, and for all who serve their communities and nations by putting themselves in harm’s way.*

**People: Lord Jesus, raise up good and righteous people in positions of power, and give protection and courage to those having to make sudden decisions.**

Pastor: *David writes, “You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it.” Let us pray for all who tend the soil, transport crops, and distribute food where it is needed.*

**People: Gracious God, send rain and sun to farms, protection to pilots and drivers, and guidance for those who manage markets; through their efforts grant that all the hungry be fed.**

Pastor: *David writes, “You crown the year with Your bounty.” Let us pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, those who lack adequate clothing or shelter, and all burdened.*

**People: O Holy Spirit, open doors of opportunity so that they may provide for themselves and their families, rejoicing in all Your good gifts.**

Pastor: *Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**People: 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.**

BENEDICTION

*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.*

 **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Almighty Father, Bless the Word,” No. 923

 **1 Almighty Father, bless the Word Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!**

 **2 We praise You for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav’n appear.**

 **3 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.**

*Grace is for all!*