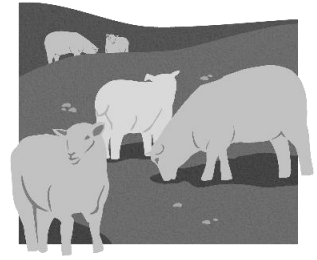


SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 10



Gracious Growth, Bountiful Harvest

That Which *Does* Give Life

July 12, 2020

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

O God, we come together to praise you, and to renew our promises to you; for you have overcome our failings, you have forgiven our sins and answered our prayers. We gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. Thank you for sending the rain to make the land rich and fertile, thank you for filling the streams with water, thank you for providing the earth with crops, for making the young plants grow, thank you for the cattle in the pastures and the sheep upon the hillside; May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this afternoon fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Welcome to Worship in the name of Jesus, our Savior! We are glad you have joined us as we worship our Lord through worship and praise on this, the Lord's day. We seek to be an open and inclusive community of faith, and hope you'll feel right at home. Our desires that today you will experience the love of Jesus Christ, and the "Blessed Hope" of His soon return. Thank you for sharing this Sabbath day with us! Welcome!

INVITATIONS:

IF YOU ARE A VISTOR, and need a church home, we would love for you to become a part of Bethel Lutheran Church. We are dedicated to sharing the wonderful message of the Gospel and equipping believers to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Please speak to the Pastor, Deacon or any members after the service.

AS WE GATHER

The Word works! The Word of God is our only source of everlasting life. Through Isaiah, God explains that His Word is as effective as rain causing growth in

plants. As David writes poetically, His care causes all the trees of the field to clap their hands. And the Word will work in our lives so that we will “go out in joy and be led forth in peace,” as Isaiah puts it. Indeed, Jesus, the Word in the flesh, succeeded in giving us peace and joy by rising victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. As a result, Paul explains in the Epistle, we are God’s adopted children, calling out to Him, “Abba, Father.” But there is work for us to do! As we let the Word work through us, we can expect that, in spite of opposition of all sorts from the world, if we but hear and understand, we will certainly bear fruit for our heavenly Father.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

SOLO Ms. Angela Henderson

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 55:11–12; Psalm 32:5; 124:8;*

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!

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Bless The Lord”

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, who has given us this good earth in which to live and who sends rain and sun to cause plants to produce fruit and grain for harvest,

People: continue to send Your life-giving Word to us so that we resist the cares of this world and return to You a harvest of new sons and daughters,

Pastor: 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* (God’s Word accomplishes His plans as surely as rain gives growth to plants.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO Ms. Angela Henderson

EPISTLE *Romans 8:12–17* (Because the Spirit leads us, we know we are children of God.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Isaiah 40:8*

Leader: Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades,

People: **but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23* (Whoever hears the Word and understands it will produce a great harvest for God in spite of worldly opposition.)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SOLO Ms. Angela Henderson

SERMON

SOLO Ms. Angela Henderson
(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)

CATECHISM *Explanation of the Third Article*

People: 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 *Psalm 65:2–5, 9, 11*

Leader: 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, [*especially . . .*], 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.**

Leader: 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.

Leader: And let us pray for those who have acted rashly, destroyed relationships, or run afoul of civil laws.

People: Lord Jesus, provide them opportunities and faithful counselors that they hear of Your mercy, repent, and repair their broken lives.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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 with financial debt.

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

Leader: 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 *Matthew 6:9–13*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

People: **The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.**

Pastor: Our heavenly Father, His ✠ Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the Holy Spirit bless you and keep you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SOLO Ms. Angela Henderson

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD.
USE THIS SHEET TO MAKE SOME PERSONAL NOTES.
GO BACK OVER THEM THROUGH THE WEEK.
THINK AND LET GOD CRYSTALIZE TRUTHS IN YOUR LIFE.**

SERMON TITLE: _____

BIBLICAL TEXT: _____

INTRODUCTION: _____

MAJOR POINTS: _____

WHAT I WILL DO AS A RESULT OF THIS MESSAGE:

“...They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday.” Acts 17:11 (NIV)