

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 14, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org



Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we too are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, and to share our bread with the hungry.

GATHERING: GOD-STORIES

You may send your photos and/or God Stories to GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org. Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

People: **Amen.**

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

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Reconciling God,

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Gather Us In"



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Helen Doerpinghaus

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. All may bring coins or dollars for the bucket collection to help those in need.

*This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

FIRST READING

At Sinai God assured Israel, "You shall be my treasured possession," and commissioned them to serve as mediating priests for the nations. The people commit themselves completely to God's will.

Lector: A reading from Exodus.

[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites." So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." (Exodus 19:2-8a)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 100

Lector: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!
Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

**People: Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

Lector: Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

**People: Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

SECOND READING

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

Lector: A reading from Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:1-8)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment." (Matthew 9:35-10:8)

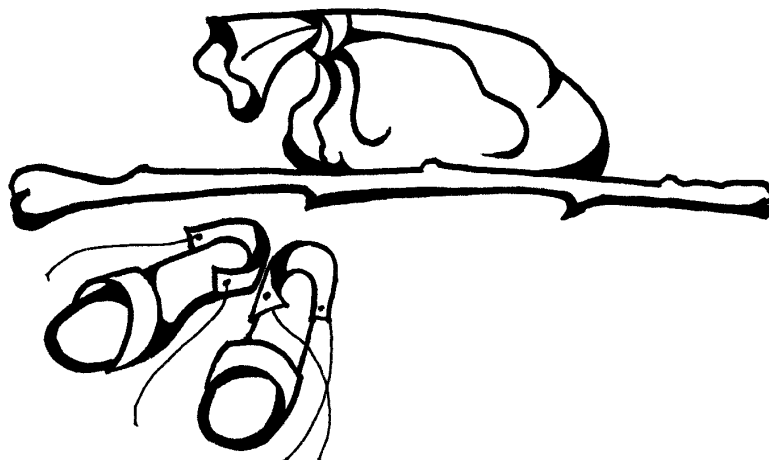
Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Will You Come and Follow Me"



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

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APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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

Pastor: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

+ A brief silence +

Pastor: Holy One, you bring us together and call us your own. Bless theologians, teachers, and preachers who help us grow in faith, following the examples of *Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, and the teacher Macrina, whom we commemorate today*. Guide your church, that we might be a holy people. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Holy One, the whole earth is yours. Where there is fire, bring cool air and new growth. Where there is flooding, bring abatement. Where there is drought, bring rain. Inspire us to care for what you have provided. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Holy One, you care for those who are harassed and helpless. Protect and defend those who are abused. Heal those who are sick. Comfort those that are grieving. Feed all who hunger. Empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors. We pray especially for: *the family of Joann Pulse; Margaret Blank; Bob Gill; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Don Woodruff; Yolanda Cole; Charles Levitt; Jack Ramsey; Jason Anderson; James; Michelle Williams; Kyle Humphries; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Holy One, you provide a plentiful harvest of gifts and resources. Prepare us to labor and gather the fruits of your kingdom, that we might discover new ways of living. Minister to us in our work as your disciples in this and every congregation, that we do not lose heart. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Holy One, we have created divisions you will not own. Call us into a deeper relationship to be your church for the sake of the world. Help us to see with new eyes the injustices within church and society. Call us to have a loving heart that respects and uplifts the humanity and dignity of every person; open our ears to listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color. Open our mouths to speak up and about injustices. Raise up leaders who work to develop lasting peace and reconciliation. Join us with others to work for racial equity and inclusion for all people. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Holy One, we pray for our nation and the world as we face continued uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care/essential workers, especially as their ongoing work puts them at risk. Guide us as we consider how best to continue to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of loving service for our neighbor, trusting that you abide with us always. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Holy One, you bring all people to yourself. We give thanks for the holy people who have gone before us. Sustain us in your mission until the day you bear us up to join the saints in light. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

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

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we have been fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we fast from the Lord's Supper on this occasion, we give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion, as we look forward to the joy of that time we will be gathered and fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal for reasons you understand, we sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting that time when we will share in his meal, we still remember, and cherish in our hearts, the words uplifting this great and glorious blessing which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and looking forward to that day when we will all be gathered again around the Lord's Table.



SONG FOR REFLECTION

"The Kingdom of God"

The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly
Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The

The image shows a musical score for a song in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is simple and reflective, with a focus on the lyrics.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: **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 SONG

"Your Grace is Enough"

Verse 1

*Great is Your faithfulness O God
You wrestle with the sinner's heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart*

Verse 2

*Great is Your love and justice, God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along*

PRE-CHORUS



and noth - ing can — keep us — a - part. — So, re -
and all — Your peo - ple sing — a - long. —



-mem - ber — Your peo - ple, — re - mem - ber — Your chil - dren, — re -



-mem - ber — Your prom - ise — O — God. — Your

CHORUS



grace is e - nough, — Your grace is e - nough — Your



grace is e - nough, — for — me. —

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+ WE CONCLUDE OUR WORSHIP OUTSIDE, REMEMBERING THAT JESUS SENDS US INTO THE WORLD +

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go in peace. Grow deeper in Grace, deeper in Love, deeper in Christ—who is always with you.

People: Thanks be to God.

✠ COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY ✠

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, theologian, died around 379

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

God's Love, Our Hearts & Faces!



One Life Deeper in 2020!

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships one person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so that we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Harvest of Compassion

Jesus sends out his disciples to labor for the kingdom. He uses the metaphor of a harvest and says there is plenty to harvest but that there are not enough workers. The church has seen itself throughout the centuries as being sent to labor for the harvest. Most often, the assumption has been that the harvest is people, and the goal is making them members of the church. Much of the missionary impulse and institutional focus of the church have been about increasing numbers and making more members.

But notice how Jesus describes the labor of the harvest: proclaim, cure, cleanse, raise, cast out. The focus is not on making people a part of the church (although welcoming others is certainly part of the good news). The goal of the labor—the harvest—is healing, helping, liberating, renewing. The world is full of great unmet needs, and many people are suffering; hopelessness and despair abound. The harvest of the kingdom is a harvest of compassionate deeds.

What happens when no one is available to harvest the crops? They sit in the field and eventually go bad. What happens to people when no one joins in the harvest of compassion? People continue to suffer, lives are diminished, and God's intentions of abundant life for all are left to rot. Jesus is inviting all who are willing to join in the harvest of compassion, and the time is now.

What happens when the church shifts its mission from harvesting people to harvesting acts of compassion? The witness of the church becomes rooted in concrete acts of care for others, and suffering is alleviated. The good news of Jesus is known in the great ingathering of compassion and justice done in Jesus' name. It begins at the table every Sunday, when we celebrate the feast of the kingdom that Jesus himself brought to fruition through his own life, death, and resurrection. May that gift now bear fruit in our lives by his grace.

June Books of the Month: Galatians & Ephesians

