

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org



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.

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

"Many and Great, O God"



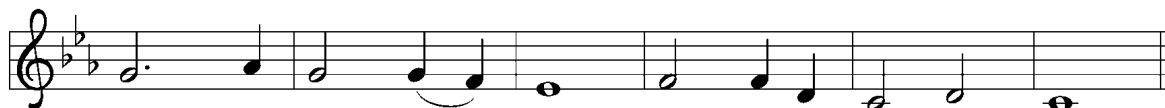
Wa - kan-tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya
1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -



qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,
earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;



ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan
your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with



ca - sbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.
word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Text: Joseph R. Renville; para. Philip Frazier

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: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through 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

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. (Isaiah 55:10-13)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65:1-13

Lector: You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**People: To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

Lector: Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

**People: Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

Lector: Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**People: You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

Lector: You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**People: Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

Lector: You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

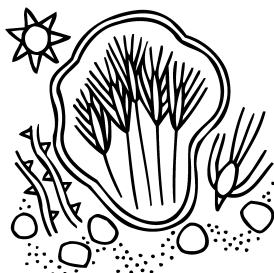
**People: You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

Lector: You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**People: May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

Lector: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;

People: let them shout for joy and sing.



SECOND READING

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

Lector: A reading from Romans.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Romans 8:1–11)

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.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing All rights reserved.

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: Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Abiding God, care for all who are in need, *especially Vickie Crapps; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Jack Ramsey; Michelle Williams; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died, *especially Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, whom we commemorate today.* Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Healing God, we pray for our nation and the world as we face uncertainties around coronavirus, especially in these days of its resurgence. Protect the most vulnerable among us, those who are currently sick, in isolation, or awaiting test results. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care/essential workers, especially as their daily 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 or self-centeredness, but with compassion, concern, and acts of loving service for others, trusting that you abide with us always. 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.

Google Play



App Store



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

"Open Up"

*You heard the cry of our hearts
and you came down
Freely you gave us your love
showing us how (Chorus)*

*All that we do without love
it means nothing
Grant us the courage to give
as you're calling (Chorus)*

*May we love, as you love
may we love, as you love
may we love, as you love
may we love, as you love*

Chorus

Make me an in - stru - ment of Your peace, where there is ha - tred let
me sow love, where there is dark - ness let me shine light and
May Your love cause us to o - pen up, cause us to o - pen up our hearts.
May Your light cause us to shine so bright that we bring hope in - to the dark.

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

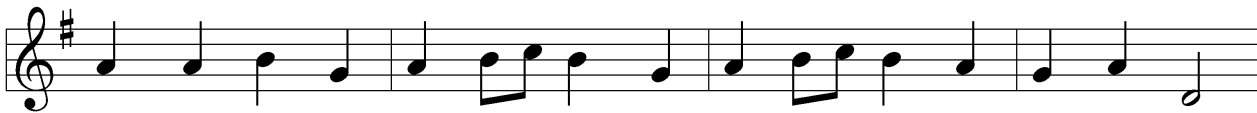
"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - jice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, Used By Permission.

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.

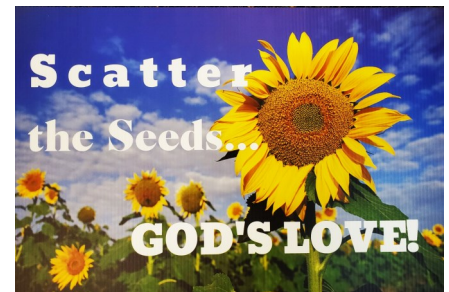
Pastor: Go in peace. Grow deeper in Grace, deeper in Love, deeper in Christ—who is always with you.

People: Thanks be to God.

Scatter the Seed of God's Love this summer:
LIKE & SHARE this Streamed Worship Service
via Facebook or YouTube!

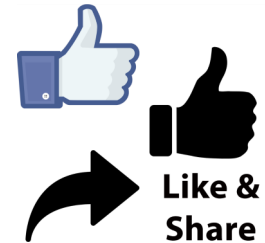


Scatter the Seed of God's Love: *2-PART Congregation Summer Challenge!*



#1) LIKE & SHARE our streamed worship service each Sunday

with all your friends and/ or a special person who might need some encouragement
--- via Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, email a link – however you choose!



#2) Share 1000 SUNFLOWER SEED PACKS in Our Community!

A sunflower (or “Son-flower”) can be a special sign of the love of Jesus, God’s Son, shining in our world. We have 1000 sunflower seed packs with special accompanying cards. We ask you to plant 1 pack at your home – and then share 5 packs with someone in your neighborhood or workplace or wherever (you can leave a pack in a neighbor’s paper box, put it on their door, hand it so someone personally, however God moves you.)



Get Your Seed Packs as Follows:

1. Pick them up from the Office Entranceway during the week (use your fob).
2. Call the Church Office so a “Good News Farmer” can deliver them to your doorstep.

One Person at a Time... Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love.

Our LS theme for 2020! Plant a seed in someone’s heart to be a reminder of God’s love – that no matter what challenges today may bring, you are special and someone cares!

The COVID pandemic has limited our usual Good News Ministries like Rush Hour, Beer 'n Hymns, Good News Walkers. But we are not letting that stop our mission to share the Good News of Jesus in our community – and we are asking the entire congregation to join us in this 2-part summer effort!

✦ **COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY** ✦

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

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!

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Taking Root

Jesus makes it clear that merely speaking or receiving the good news of the kingdom of God is not always sufficient. Through preaching, Bible study, and worship God's word is planted in our hearts. But many things can get in the way of the word taking root, growing, and producing fruit.

The church is often tempted to do whatever it takes to bring in as many people, and as quickly, as possible for the sake of increasing numbers. This is sometimes done through shallowness: appealing to popular trends, preaching an easy message that requires no repentance or sacrifice, or depending on the charisma of the messenger more than the substance of the message.

In his parable of the sowing of seeds, Jesus emphasizes that it takes understanding and depth for God's word to take root, to endure struggles, and to be sustained long enough to bear fruit. Shallowness only makes room for a quick growth that doesn't last.

In the church, what makes for depth that allows God's word to take root and last in our lives? Often it means connecting God's word to the deep, personal needs we bring. Is the Bible a book about things that happened a long time ago, or does it speak God's word for our lives today? Do we listen only to the parts of God's word that sound easy and make us feel good, or do we wrestle with messages of repentance and calls to seek justice?

Martin Luther taught the church that God's word comes to us as law and gospel. We don't get to choose which one we want to hear. We always get both. Both knowing we need God's mercy and hearing that God's mercy is a gift for us through Christ bring God's word deep into our hearts, where it takes root and lives. This is what it means to understand God's word with depth.

July Book of the Month: Hebrews

