



7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

Opening Hymn #5

Lord, Open Thou My Heart to Hear

1. Lord, open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let me Thy child and heir remain.

2. Thy Word doth deeply move the heart,
Thy Word doth perfect health impart,
Thy Word my soul with joy doth bless,
Thy Word brings peace and happiness.

3. To God, the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.

Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪Amen.

Introit

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.

P: The LORD is merciful and gracious,

C: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Gloria Patri

C ♪Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

P The Lord be with you

C ♪And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪Amen.

The First Lesson – 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, ¹¹so 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. ¹³Instead 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.”

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 65:9-13

⁹You visit the earth and water it;

you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;

you provide their grain,

for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly,

settling its ridges,

softening it with showers,

and blessing its growth.

¹¹You crown the year with your bounty;

your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

the valleys deck themselves with grain,

they shout and sing together for joy.

The Second Lesson – Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For 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!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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.

The Gradual

P: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C: How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

P: For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C: To him be glory forever. Amen. Hallelujah!

Triple Hallelujah

The Gospel – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³As 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.”

Confession of Faith ***Apostle's 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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day #49 ***Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast***

1. Almighty God, Thy Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven descend
And righteous fruits abound.

2. Let not the foe of Christ and man
This holy seed remove.
But give it root in every 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. Oft as the precious seed is sown,
Thy quickening grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving power may know.

Sermon Text – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sermon

***The Preaching of the Word of Christ Bears the Good Fruits
of Faith and Love***

Offertory

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Almighty God, You send forth Your Word as abundantly as rains upon the earth. Grant that we would never take Your generosity for granted, but would seek the help and refreshment of Your Word in every circumstance.

**Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy name within our hearts.**

P: Heavenly Father, bless parents with faithfulness as they plant Your Word into their children, that they may grow steadfast among the cares and troubles of this world.

**Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus, Thy Son, to us imparts.**

P: Creator of heaven and earth, by Your Word You send forth rain and snow to make the world bring forth and sprout. Give seed to the sower and bread to the eater. Provide us with seasonable weather and bountiful harvest, that we may enjoy daily bread and praise Your name.

**Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
Didst give us food for all our days,**

P: God of all grace, You have made us Your holy children and freed us from bondage to the flesh. Sustain us in repentance and faith, life and salvation.

**Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.**

P: Lord God, look with mercy upon those who suffer from illness of body or mind. [*Be especially with _____.*] Give them healing. Comfort them with Your presence. Grant them patience to endure suffering, and assure them at all times that they are Your dear children and that the glory of Christ awaits them.

**Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mercy,
Save it from evil, guard it still,**

P: Lord of life, continue to sow Your Word throughout the earth. Bless pastors and missionaries as they proclaim Your truth. Prepare the hearts of all who hear to believe and yield abundant fruit.

**Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.**

P: Father of mercy, our sins have merited thorns and briars and yield only trouble and strife. Forgive our transgressions and discipline us against temptation, that we may rejoice in Your name and the promise of everlasting life.

**As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
Was in this broken bread made one,**

P: Almighty God, Your Spirit calls us by the Gospel to the new life of faith. We praise You and acknowledge You as our Lord. Deliver us from the devil's temptations, that we may live under You and serve You in righteousness, innocence and blessedness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**So from all lands Thy Church be gathered
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.**

The 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**

Sermon Hymn #46
On What has Now been Sown

1. On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The power is Thine alone
To make it spring and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise.

2. To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our powers;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3. Oh, grant that each of us
Now met before Thee here
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heaven, our home.
E'en so, Amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Prayer & The Benediction

Closing Hymn #52
Almighty Father, Bless the Word

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

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

Silent Prayer

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