

A sower went out to sow

MATTHEW 13:3





+ The 6th Sunday After Pentecost +

July 12, 2020

AS WE GATHER (Together, Apart)

Plants in God’s good earth respond to the showers He sends, producing plants for pasture and crops for harvest. In the psalm, David says it is as if “the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.” It is all natural, and so is our producing fruit for God as His Word works through us. That God works through us sinners is all grace; if we but hear the Word and let the Spirit give us understanding, a bountiful harvest will follow. Jesus likens it to seeds producing yields of up to a hundredfold. But we are no mere plants, as Paul points out in the Epistle. Because we have been adopted by our heavenly Father, we are brothers and sisters of Christ, the children of God, calling out to Him, “Abba! Father!” Our growth in faith is indeed by the grace of God, and to Him belongs all the credit for the bountiful harvest He reaps through us.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord’s sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

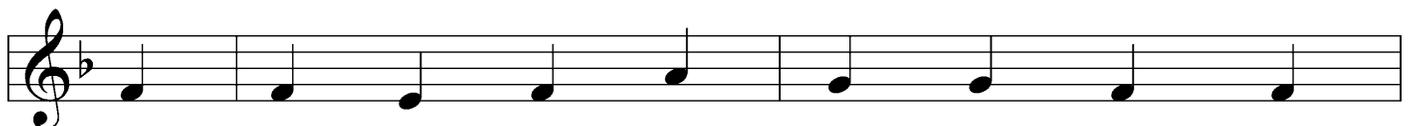
Liturgical Color:

Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

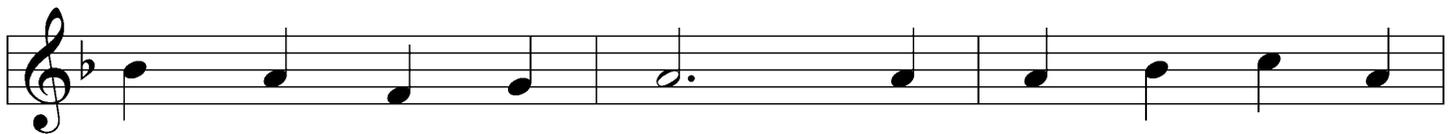
Prelude Lorraine Miller
 (“Beautiful Savior”, 19th Century Silesian Folk Melody, arr. by Lorraine Miller)

Announcements & Welcome

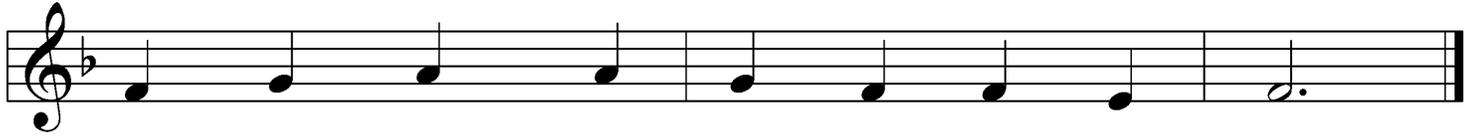
Gathering Hymn “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast” #577



1	Al	-	might	-	y	God,	Your	Word	is	cast	Like
2	Let	not	the	sly	sa	-	tan	-	ic	foe	This
3	Let	not	the	world’s	de	-	ceit	-	ful	cares	The
4	So	when	the	pre	-	cious	seed	is	sown,	Life	-



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

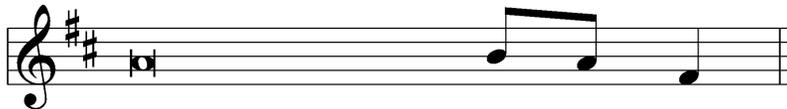
Text and tune: Public domain

Matins

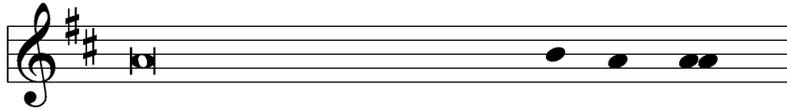
Opening Verses..... page 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



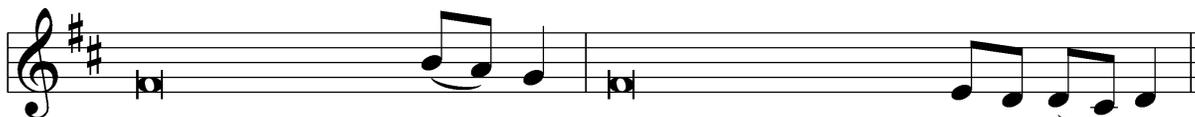
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



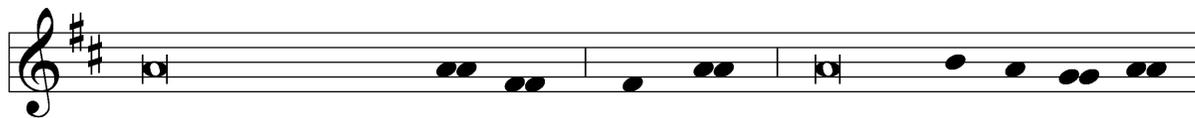
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

Psalmody

Antiphon..... page 220

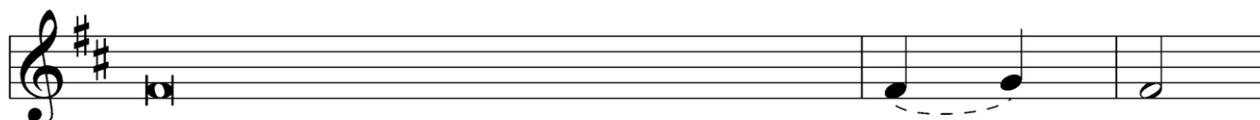


L Blessed be God, the Fa-ther, the Son, and the Ho-ly Spir-it.



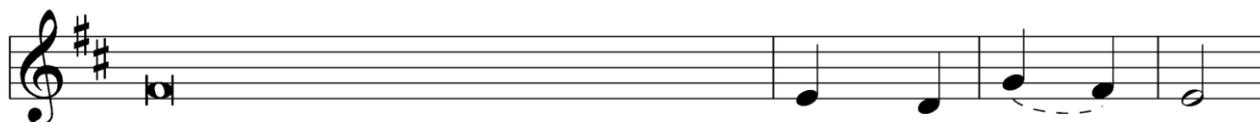
C O come, let us wor-ship Him.

Venite..... pages 220-221



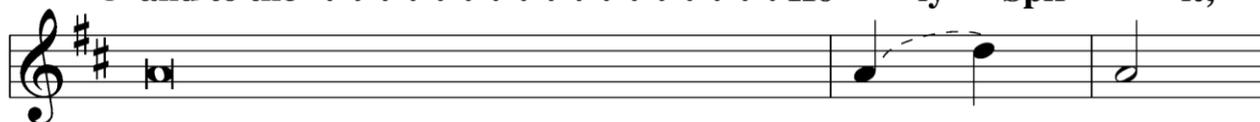
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
2 For the Lord is a great God
3 The sea is His, for He made it,

5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

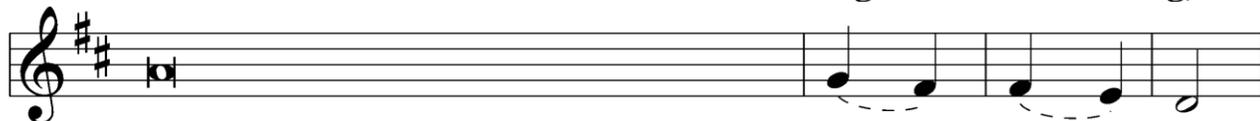


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal-va-tion.
2 and a great king a-bove all gods.
3 and His hand formed the dry land.

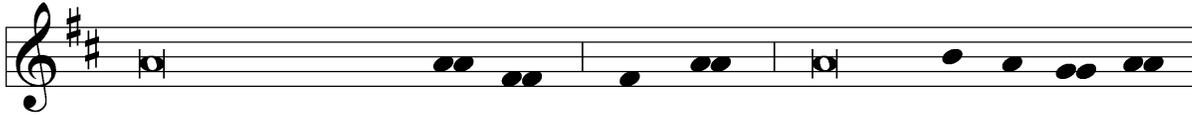
5 and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks-giv-ing,
2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
4 For He is our God,
5 as it was in the be-gin-ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
2 the strength of the hills is His al-so.
3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak-er.
4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
5 is now, and will be for - ev-er. A-men.



L Blessed be God, the Fa - ther, the Son, and the Ho - ly Spir - it.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Introit..... (*spoken in unison*)

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those
who fear him,

and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Office Hymn..... "*Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing*" #584



1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the



Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
 Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,
 Word re - ceiv - ing, Like a bar - ren field be found, Choked with
 song, and sto - ry, Sav - ior, may Your voice be heard. Till our
 thorns and un - be - liev - ing, Shal - low earth or ston - y ground.
 eyes be - hold Your glo - ry Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Isaiah 55:10-13

“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,
 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.

“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.
 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.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading Romans 8:12-17

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

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

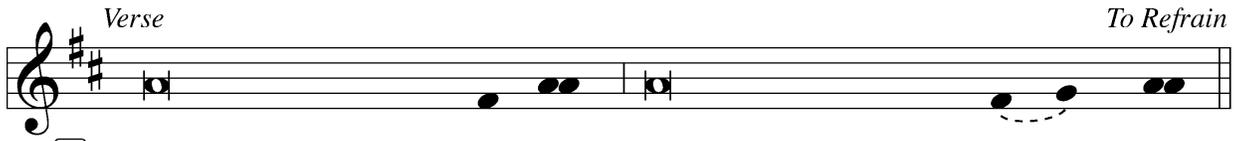
Holy Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 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, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

“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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 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. 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. 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.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



L 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
 2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
 3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

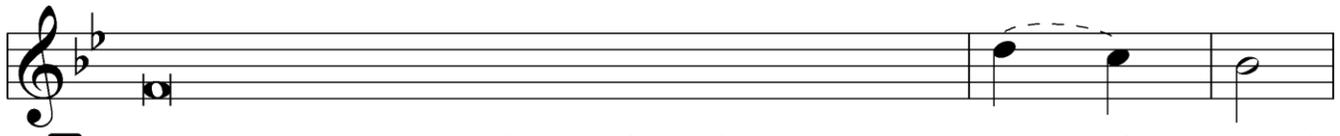


C Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

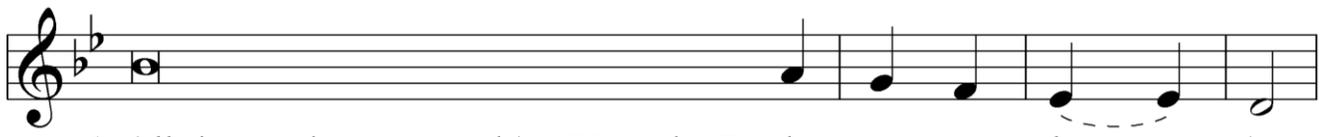
Sermon..... "Seeds, Time, and Place"

Canticle

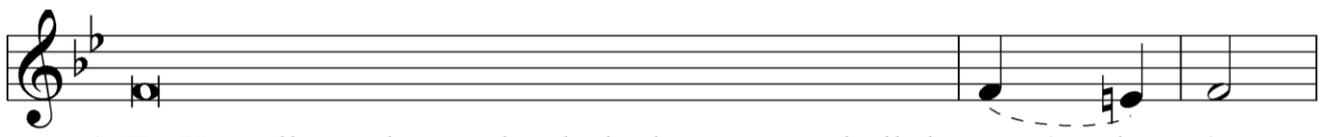
Te Deum.....page 223-225



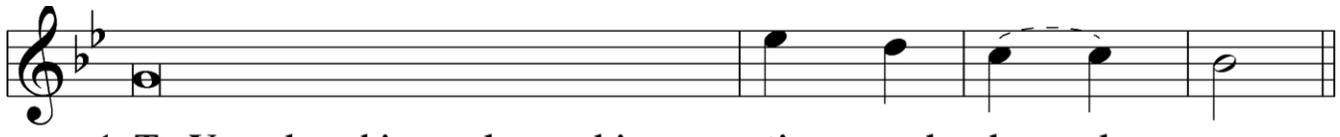
C 1 We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 3 The noble army of martyrs praise You.



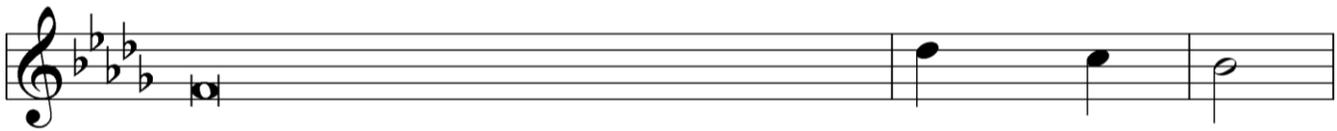
1 All the earth now worships You, the Father ev - er - last - ing.
 2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
 3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl - edge You:



1 To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
 2 The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
 3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
 4 You are the king of glory, O Christ;



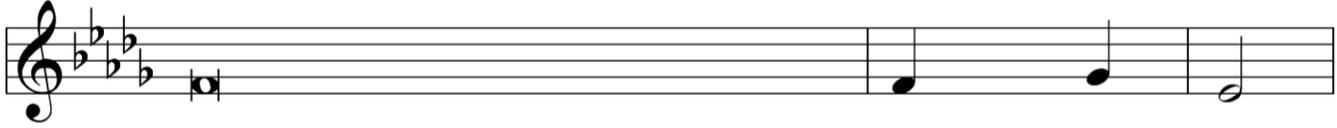
1 To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
 2 The goodly fellowship of the proph - ets praise You.
 3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com - fort - er.
 4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



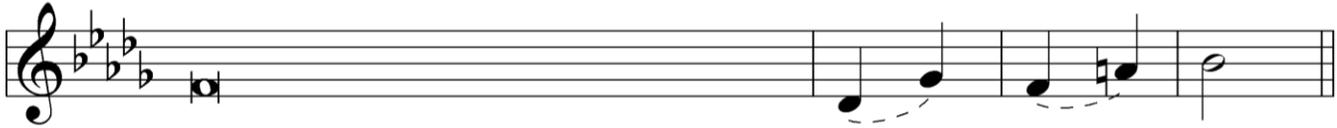
5 When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



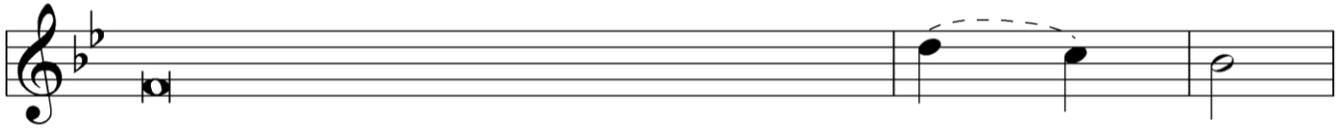
5 You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



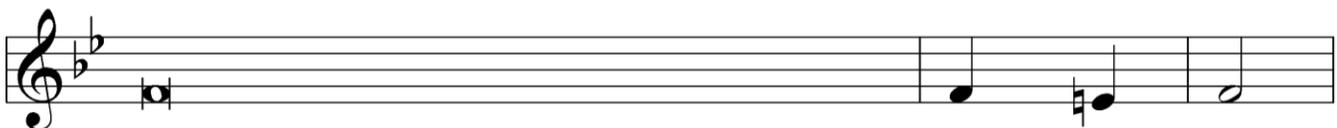
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



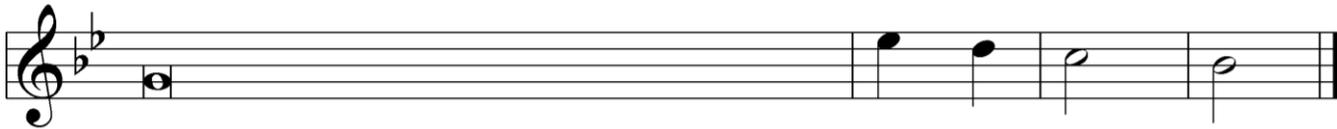
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,
8 O Lord, save Your people and bless Your . . . her - i - tage.
9 Grant, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.
8 Govern them and lift them up for - ev - er.
9 O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy up - on us.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints
8 Day by day we magni - fy You.
9 O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us, as our trust is in You.



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.
8 And we worship Your name for - ever and ev - er.
9 O Lord, in You have I trusted; let me never be con - found - ed.

Kyrie.....page 227



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayerpage 227

C 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.

Collects.....page 227



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

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. Amen.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus.....page 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction..... page 228

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

C Amen.

Sending Hymn..... "Father We Thank Thee" #652



1 Fa - ther, we thank Thee who hast plant - ed Thy ho - ly
2 Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, Save it from



name with - in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im -
e - vil, guard it still, Per - fect it in Thy love, u -



mor - tal Je - sus, Thy Son, to us im - parts.
nite it, Cleansed and con - formed un - to Thy will.



Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure, Didst
As grain, once scattered on the hill-sides, Was
give us food for all our days, Giving in Christ the
in this broken bread made one, So from all lands Thy
Bread e - ter - nal; Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.
Church be gath - ered In - to Thy king - dom by Thy Son.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Lorraine Miller
 (“*Fantasia #11 in G-Major, Vivace and Allegro*”, G. Ph. Telemann (1681-1767))

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Attendance Last Saturday: 18
Total Offering: \$2,979.00
Home Use: \$2,779.00

Attendance Last Sunday: 31
Missions: \$100.00
Benevolences: \$100.00

Daily Readings

July 12: Judges 7:1–23; Galatians 1:1–24; **July 13:** Judges 13:1–25; Galatians 2:1–21; **July 14:** Judges 14:1–20; Galatians 3:1–22; **July 15:** Judges 15:1–16:3; Galatians 3:23–4:11; **July 16:** Judges 16:4–30; Galatians 4:12–31; **July 17:** 1 Samuel 1:1–20; Galatians 5:1–26; **July 18:** 1 Samuel 1:21–2:17; Galatians 6:1–18.

Prayers

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, recovering from hospitalization, and going through rehabilitation: Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Delores

Christianson, Leona Droege, Charlie Fair, Mary Frerking, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Roy Hillmann (Bonnie Rich's father) Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Charles Keseman, Katie Kurz, Marty Lehn, Kathy Marshall (hospice), Ryland Mickens and family (Janet Mudd's premature granddaughter), Johnny Nichol, Rachel Nichol, Patricia (Larry Haase's sister), Jim Rudy, Greg Trimble (Kaye Fair's brother-in-law), Paula Willis (Bonnie Rich's friend) and Pr. Gerald Wittmaier. *As well as all who are dealing with COVID—19, especially the healthcare providers who are straining to prevent, stem the spread, and treat those who are ill!*

For Pregnant Mothers and their families as they await childbirth, especially Sierra Burden, Alexia Gray and Kristin Rode. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Chance Hillsman, Troy Hirni (Chris Hirni's brother), Logan LeBaige, and Michael Martin (Ron and Kathy Rode's nephew).

For Our Confirmands Ben Florida and Josh Hagle. May the Lord continue to lead them forth into their baptismal faith as they prepare for their confirmation later this year!

For Those Who Mourn—May Christ our Risen Lord comfort and give lasting peace to Julie, Mark and Preston Schlueter at the death of Julie's father (from Alma, Missouri) who passed away on July 4th.

Worship Services

Online Services can be found on the Website (blchurch.com), Facebook (Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Warrensburg, MO) and YouTube (Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Warrensburg, Missouri).

Wednesday Devotional Services—A brief service (Early Evening Prayer) is also being recorded each week to be viewed at **7:00 p.m.** Wednesdays on Facebook and YouTube. We're working our way through well and lesser-known biblical figures by focusing on a different one each week (through Frederick Buechner's *Peculiar Treasures*); last week was Hagar. Tune in this week to see who we cover!

Faith Discussion & Reflection

In God's Image and Likeness—Pr. Joel has started a six-week Zoom study on how we see ourselves and each other (including racial difference and common humanity) on **Wednesdays at noon**. The study is making use of video and written materials available through our seminary and synod websites, along with discussion of biblical passages and personal experience. (The first session focused on President Matthew Harrison's "A Statement on the Death of George Floyd and the Ensuing Riots" and

the LCMS Statement “Racism: A Christian Response.”) We’re aiming to keep each session at 45 minutes. Let Cindy or Pr. Joel know if you’d still like to jump on board this discussion. (And just so you know in advance, we’ll be taking July 22 off due to Pr. Joel’s vacation.)

“Racism and the Church: A Time to Listen—Voices from Across the LCMS” is a collection of responses from church leaders and laypeople within our denomination that is worth your time reading ... whether or not you participate in the Zoom group mentioned above. You can access it by going to blogs.lcms.org. You can also find other pertinent materials at lcms.org/social-issues/racism.

“Becoming A Woman of Grace”—Rebecca Stewart will lead a Zoom bible class beginning **Thursday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be using Cynthia Heald’s *“Becoming a Woman of Grace”* and will begin discussing and learning about God’s grace. The Lord’s grace is life changing! How does this love look like in your life and how can you share God’s grace with others in your life? The class will be held for eleven consecutive Thursdays. Please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class. You will receive materials and a link for the zoom class.

Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate on the altar with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called *“Simply Giving”*. Go to our website, click on the far right tab that says “My BLC” and then click on the “Simply Giving” link.

Congregational and Devotional Opportunities

Sunday Morning—Pastor Joel’s Sunday morning sermon can be heard on the radio broadcast on 98.5 at 9:00 a.m., on the website (blchurch.com) (on the home page or under the “Sermons” tab).

Daily Readings are being posted each day on our Facebook page with a link that will lead you directly to the passage.

Video Devotions are being done by Pr. Joel every Friday and posted on Facebook by someone more savvy than him in that regard. (Thanks, Cindy!)

Miscellaneous

Churchyard Gardens and Greenspace—Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and squash have been planted in the green tubs, one raised bed has been planted with strawberries and another with miscellaneous greens, and herbs are flourishing and ready to be used for cooking anytime! That said and all given, it was decided that this might be the best year to let the garden go fallow and do some redesigning for

next year. Talk to Pr. Joel, Mike or Barbara Chasar, or Shawn Lindley if you'd like to help out in any way.

CarePortal is a technology platform that connects vulnerable children and families (Foster Care) to people who can help meet pressing and often simple needs quickly. Social workers uncover the needs, then CarePortal makes local churches aware—giving them a real-time opportunity to respond. Bethlehem has recently joined several other local congregations in the CarePortal team, so we will be notified when a need arises in our area; those details will be sent to the membership to see if anyone can fill it. For more information about it, go to careportal.org.

Assistance—If you or anyone you know might need assistance with picking up groceries, medication, doctor appointments, etc., please get in contact with Pr. Joel or the church office. We have a group of members that are willing and able to help.

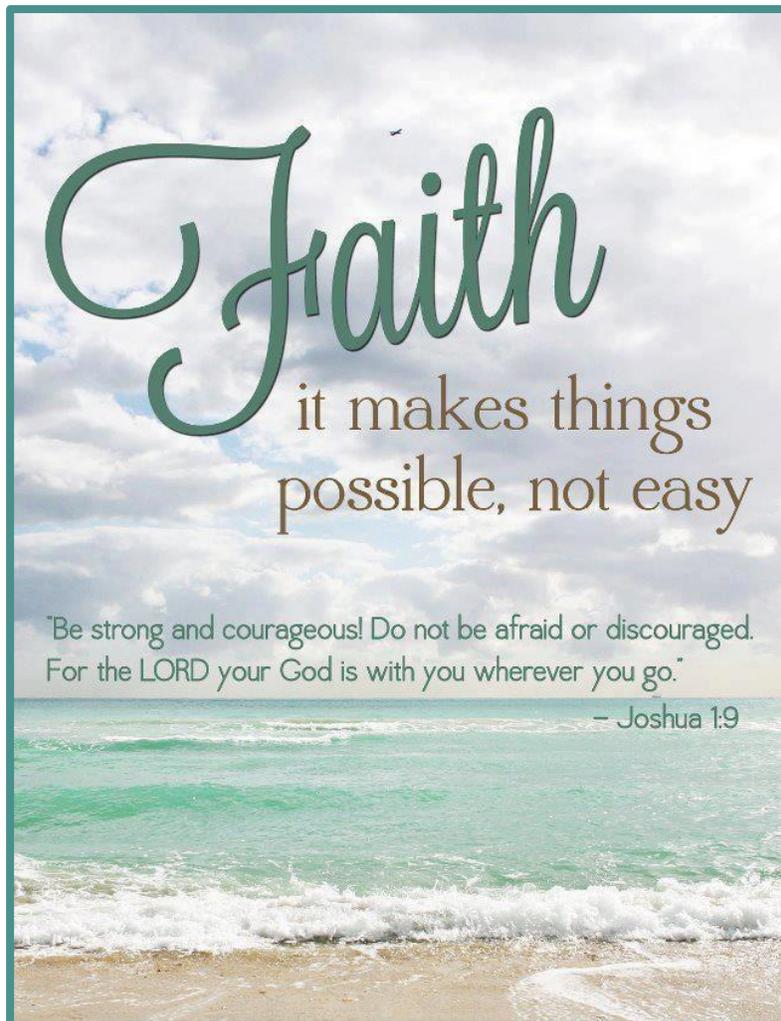
Elders

Nathan Wittmaier—660-225-1165(H), 660-864-1727, wittmaier@gmail.com

Jeff Harris—660-624-1571, elvis100669@yahoo.com

James Schumaker—660-429-3591(H), 660-864-9698, jshoe_1@charter.net

Jeremy VanWey—606-909-4765, [jeremy.vanwey@gmail](mailto:jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com)



Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am–5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

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Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart

MTW: 8am–2pm

Thursday by appointment

clf@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed circuit video system. This allows for the viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.