

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Where the Love of Christ is Shared”

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Pastor Mark Griesse

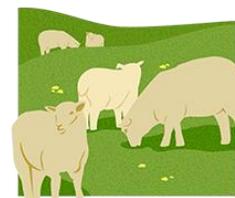
VISITORS: Please introduce yourself to Pastor Griesse and sign our Guest Book located in the narthex. We ask that you fill out a green visitor card, found in the back of your pew, and give to an usher or put in the offering plate when offering is collected.

NURSERY: We have an infant nursery for parents to care for small children. Ask an usher for assistance.

If you have a prayer request, write it on the blue prayer card found on back of the pews, and give to an usher when offering is being collected.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST— PROPER 10

July 12, 2020



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 ✠

HYMN

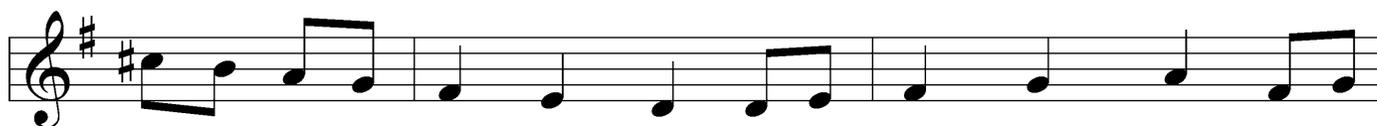
“Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”

[LSB 868]

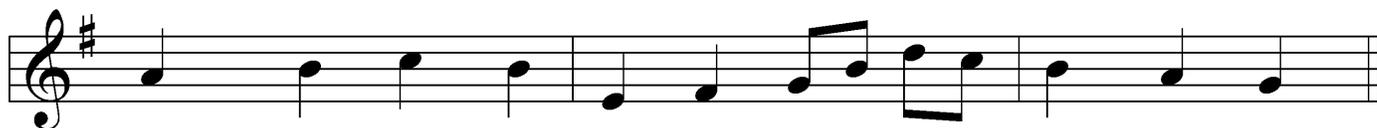
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S41ByBD8oMA>



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly
2 In con - ver - sa - tion be sin - cere, Thy con - science
3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast re -
4 Lord, I my vows to Thee re - new; Dis - perse my



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and
as the noon - day clear; Think how the all - see - ing
fleshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from
sins as morn - ing dew; Guard my first springs of



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
God thy ways And all thy se - cret thoughts sur - veys.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will And with Thy - self my spir - it fill.

5 Direct, control, suggest this day
All I design or do or say
That all my pow'rs with all their might
In Thy sole glory may unite.

6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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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; Matthew 13:23; Romans 8:16

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.

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!

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.

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.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:10–13

(God's Word accomplishes His plans as surely as rain gives growth to plants.)

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from the fifty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

“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,

People: 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.

Reader: “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.

**People: 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.”**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 65; antiphon: v. 5

Reader: By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our
salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.
Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be
performed.

People: O You who hear prayer, to You shall all flesh come.

Reader: When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.

**People: Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your
courts!**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house,
the holiness of Your temple!**

Reader: By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our
salvation,

the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

**People: the one who by His strength established the mountains, being
girded with might;**

**who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,**

Reader: so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your
signs.

**People: You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout
for joy.**

Reader: You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it;

**People: the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so
You have prepared it.**

Reader: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,

People: softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Reader: You crown the year with Your bounty;

People: Your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

Reader: The pastures of the wilderness overflow,

People: the hills gird themselves with joy,

Reader: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,

**People: they shout and sing together for joy. By awesome deeds You
answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of
all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

EPISTLE

Romans 8:12–17

(Because the Spirit leads us, we know we are children of God.)

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

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Isaiah 40:8

Pastor: 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.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

^{13:1} That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ 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, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears,^[a] let him hear.”

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

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



HYMN OF THE DAY “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast” [LSB 577]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c2mjT5schA>



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.

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That Which Gives Life

Text: Isaiah 55:10–13

Just as water comes down and waters the earth, so, too, does the Word of God accomplish the Lord's purposes.

The Word of the Lord works. Not some of the time, but all of the time. It always accomplishes what the Lord purposes. And it always succeeds in doing the thing for which the Lord sends it.

The Word of the Lord works. Not some of the time, but all of the time. This is the promise given to us by the prophet Isaiah. And he gives this promise to us in an image, so that the promise would be clear and we would be certain of the power and efficacy of the Word of God.

The image, of course, is that of rain and snow. It's of moisture that comes down from heaven and always waters the earth. Now, the moisture doesn't always fall on the same place. But when moisture comes, moisture always works. Water never sits there gliding on top of the ground without sinking in. No, it comes down and waters the earth. Even if it falls on soil that's saturated,

it moves on until it finds soil that isn't saturated, and it waters that earth. The point is this: water always works. Not some of the time, but all of the time. It accomplishes the watering of the earth, and it always succeeds, making the soil bring forth and sprout with life.

So it is with the moisture; so it is with the Word of God. As Moisture Works All the Time, So Does the Word of the Lord. This is the prophet's point.

I. Just as the earth has need of water, so, too, does a sinful humanity have need of the Word.

And, boy, do we need the Word of God to work. Like a dead, dry desert filled with thorns and thistles and badly in need of some rain or snow to come down and water the ground and give it life, so, too, is this world filling up with the results of mankind's fall into sin. So, too, were the people of Israel to whom the prophet Isaiah was speaking. Thirsty and hungry, with no money to buy food and drink, the people of Israel were helpless to help themselves (**Is 55:1**). A vineyard having produced only stinking, rotten grapes (**Is 5:1–7**), on their own, Israel was unable to produce that which would please the Lord.

Cursed by the fall into sin, we are now those who are conceived in sin, so that we come forth in iniquity and are able to do no good thing, pleasing in God's sight. Our sinful spiritual condition is like the desert: dead and dry, badly in need of something to give us life. *We cannot, by our own reason or strength, believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, or come to him (SC, Third Article)*. We are the ones who are powerless on our own to do any good thing.

II. Jesus, the Word of God Incarnate, comes to water the earth with his blood.

And so the Lord sends the Word down from heaven to water the earth. He sends his Son, that is, the Word of God Incarnate, who takes on flesh and blood to come down and water the earth. And water the earth he does.

The only-begotten Son of God, who was not conceived in sin but by the Holy Spirit, so that he might bring life and immortality to all, came down from heaven, was incarnate of the virgin Mary, and was made man. He who was in the beginning the Word of God took on flesh so that he could be crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, die on the cross to atone for our sins, and water the earth with his precious blood. When the Son of God hung on the cross, having suffered hell, he was pierced by the sword, and from his side water and blood

poured forth to water the earth.

III. The risen Lord Jesus reveals that the Word will remain and is victorious.

As the Word of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ, hung there on the cross, he certainly didn't appear to be powerful. He appeared to be defeated and powerless. So those who scoffed at him were confirmed in their suspicion, while those who had followed him were tempted to despair. The Word of God appeared to be powerless.

But then, in glorious victory, like a sprout shooting forth from the ground, the crucified and dead Jesus is raised from the dead to burst forth from the ground alive and well. That which was sown perishable and in great weakness and dishonor, appearing to have no power at all over sin and death, is raised in glory and power and honor, immortal and imperishable, as the victorious Word of God, whose death only served to conquer death but whose life now serves to give life to the world!

IV. The preaching of Jesus, the proclamation of the Word of God, brings life to the world.

So where does the Lord continue to give this life-giving moisture today? I mean, the Lord Jesus has long since ascended to the right hand of the Father. From where does the heavenly moisture that gives life to this world continue to come? Where are we to look when we are dry and despairing, unable to help ourselves?

Sure, like the rest of the world, we are unable by our own reason or strength to believe in Jesus Christ or come to him. *But the Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel* (see SC, Third Article). The Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the Gospel, calls us out of the darkness of our sin to live in the light of the glory of God. The cross may be foolishness to those who continue on in their sin and death, but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God (**1 Cor 1:18**). The death and resurrection of Jesus on behalf of sinners is the Gospel, which is the power of salvation for all who believe and for all who will live victorious with Jesus in the land of the living.

So just as surely as Jesus himself came down from heaven to water the earth with his own blood, so now does the preaching of Jesus serve to deliver the benefits of his blood to those who hear and believe. And just as surely as

rain and snow come down from heaven and serve to water the earth does the Word of the cross and the empty tomb now serve to give life to the world. This is the promise given by the prophet. It is given for us to know and to trust, so that we might be certain that the Word of God will always work.

No matter the setting or how bleak the situation, the death and resurrection of Jesus reveals that the Word will accomplish the Lord's purposes and will succeed in bringing life to the world.

This world is full of sin and death. The curse of the fall still hovers over us, causing us to be born in sin and to commit sin. We are all born sinful and unclean and are unable to do any good thing. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent forth his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who took on flesh to dwell among us. Though his death appeared to be the end, it has now become the source of life, so that his glorious resurrection is the proof that he has overcome the curse and brought life and immortality to light.

There is now no doubt. It is the Word of the Lord that accomplishes the purposes of the Lord. Jesus Christ has succeeded in the thing for which he was sent. Now, he continues to send his Word down from heaven to water the earth, and, by his own Spirit, he uses his Word to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole Christian Church on earth, so that sinners would be saved and the dead, dry desert of this world would be filled with life. Amen.

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.

OFFERING TO THE LORD'S WORK IS GATHERED

(During this time of staying at home we invite you to mail or drop off your offerings to the church.)

OFFERTORY

“Thy Word Is a Lamp”

[LSB 973]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6LC8cu03lg>



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My



Still You're there right be - side me. And
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.



noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near.
Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; And



Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Psalm 65:2–5, 9, 11

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

All: 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

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

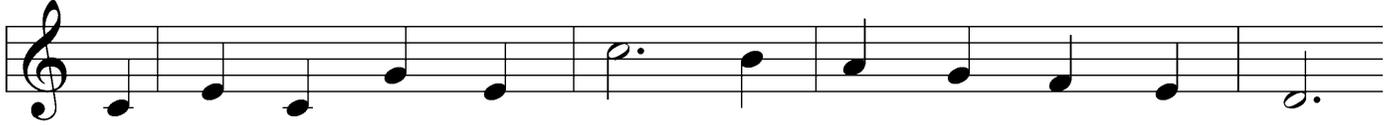
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.



HYMN**“On What Has Now Been Sown”**

[LSB 921]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9YhZxgnkL8>

1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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