

# The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

## Welcome

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: And also with you.

P: We are gathered by God  
C: To share the love of Jesus!

## Gathering Prayer

*P: Let us pray together:*

C: Lord of the harvest, as You scatter the seed of Your Word among us this morning,

send Your Spirit to till our hearts and minds so that they will be fertile soil.

May Your Word take root in us and bring forth an abundant harvest of the fruits of faith;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever; Amen.

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Open now thy gates of beauty;  
Zion, let me enter there,  
Where my soul in joyful duty  
Waits for Him who answers prayer.  
Oh, how bless'd is this place,  
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee;  
Come Thou also unto me.  
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,  
There a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, O enter Thou;  
Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;  
Here Thy seed is duly sown.  
Let my soul, where it is planted,  
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be  
Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken;  
Let me keep Thy gift divine,  
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;  
May Thy Word still o'er me shine  
As my guiding star through life,  
As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;  
Let Thy will be done indeed.  
May I undisturbed draw near Thee  
While Thou dost Thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows;  
Here is balm for all our woes.

Words: Benjamin Schmolck  
Translation: Catherine Winkworth

## Invocation

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## Opening Versicles

*P: O Lord, open my lips,*

**C: and my mouth shall declare Your praise.**

*P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;*

**C: Make haste to help me, O Lord!**

**C: 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.**

## Antiphon

*P: Give glory to God, our light and our life.*

**C: O come, let us worship Him!**

## Venite

P: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

*Women:*

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

*Men:*

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

*Women:*

In His hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are His also.

*Men:*

The sea is His, for He made it; and His hand formed the dry land.

P: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

**C: 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

*P: Let us pray:*

*Gracious God, You have given us this good earth in which to live.*

**C: As You always send rain and sun to cause plants to grow grain and bear fruit for harvest, continue to send Your life-giving Word to us so we may resist the cares of this world and return to You an abundant harvest of new sons and daughters to praise Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; Amen.**

## Scripture 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."

*L: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**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.

*L: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

 **This Dust**

Lord, have mercy on me, I am riddled with the world's disease  
Of taking what I want and turning it into a need  
I am flesh and blood, never good enough.  
You poured out Your love to cover o'er this dust.

Oh, what senseless love, that You would come to join with us.  
And drink this cursed cup, redeeming all that we've undone.  
We are flesh and blood, never good enough.  
You poured out Your love to cover o'er this dust.

And mercy rains on all our shame,  
And washes all the stain away.

Death is all around us, we are not afraid—  
Written is the story, empty is the grave!

 **Confession**

*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 You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*P: Since "the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," let us therefore approach our heavenly Father in trusting confidence, confessing our sins: P: Lord God, we have neither loved nor trusted in You above all things, and so we we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.*

**C: And so we pray: For the sake of Jesus and His love for us, free us, O Lord!  
Lead us to do what pleases You, to the glory of Your holy name; Amen.**

*P: Our Lord reminds us that "the one who hears the Word and understands it bears fruit."*

*By God's grace, we believe and understand that Jesus gave His life to forgive our sins  
and that He rose from the grave to give us eternal life!*

*Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I rejoice to announce that  
all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen!**

## **Sharing the Peace**

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

## **Let It Rise**

Let the glory of the Lord  
Rise among us

Let the glory of the Lord  
Rise among us  
Let the praises of the King  
Rise among us  
Let it rise

Let the songs of the Lord  
Rise among us

Let the songs of the Lord  
Rise among us  
Let the joy of the King  
Rise among us  
Let it rise

O let it rise  
O let it rise

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.*

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

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." (ESV)

*P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Sermon

The Sermon

"Sower, Seed, Soil..."

*So What?'*

## On What Has Now Been Sown

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

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

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

Written by: John Newton

## Offering

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings  
[spalutheran.org/give](http://spalutheran.org/give)

## Offertory Prayer Pentecost 6

*P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus,*

**C: As we offer our tithes and our offerings, we also offer our lives.**

**Since You are generous and gracious with all that is Yours, help us to imitate You, and hold nothing back in loving and serving You. In Your name we pray; Amen.**

## Prayers

*P: Hear us, O Lord, as we pray for all people around the world in their various circumstances.*

*P: O You who hear our prayers, to You all flesh shall come.*

*Father, restore all those suffering under physical and spiritual needs, especially from COVID-19.*

*P: Lord, in Your mercy;*

**C: Hear our prayer.**

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

*Father, clear the names of the falsely accused, and send Your aid wherever reform is needed.*

*I: Lord, in Your mercy;*

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple."*

*O Holy Spirit, make us bold to follow Jesus and sow the seed of His Word.*

*P: Lord, in Your mercy;*  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

*I: By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness.*

*Lord Jesus, raise up good people to govern, defend, and protect us in society, and bless their work.*

*I: Lord, in Your mercy;*  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it.*

*Gracious God, send rain and sun to farms and all who work them; may the hungry be fed.*

*P: Lord, in Your mercy;*  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

*I: You crown the year with Your bounty.  
O Holy Spirit, guide those struggling to find work; help them to earn and provide.*

*P: Lord, in Your mercy;*  
**C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: Everything else You know we need, we commend into Your keeping*

*trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

## **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

## **Benediction**

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.*

*The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

**C: Amen.**

## **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear  
Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been

Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!  
Words: Joachim Neander  
Translation: Catherine Winkworth

## Sending

*P: We are gathered by God*

**C: to share the love of Jesus!**

*P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## Sing To The King

Oh Lord, we give You our lives;  
let the veil be lifted from our eyes.  
You are God, You created us to sing to You.

Sing to the King all the people  
Sing to the King for He is the One  
Who is worthy of all the praise  
That we could ever give  
Sing to the One who paid our ransom  
Lift up His name higher than the heavens  
Sing to the King for who He is

Oh Lord we lift our praises high  
May our voices and our hearts collide  
And perform You a living sacrifice  
We were made for You

Sing to the King all the people  
Sing to the King for He is the One  
Who is worthy of all the praise  
That we could ever give  
Sing to the One who paid our ransom  
Lift up His name higher than the heavens  
Sing to the King for who He is

Woah oh, woah, oh.  
Woah oh, woah, oh.

O God above the nations O God above our sins  
Lean your ear to hear us let your church sing again

