

Family Worship for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 12, 2020

Leader / Response

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** (*Ps 124:8*)

If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you?

But with you is forgiveness; therefore, you are adored. (*Ps130:3-4*)

As we gather to hear God's Word, let us open our hearts to God and confess our sins, trusting in his infinite mercy for forgiveness and asking for his Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

Almighty God, have mercy on me, hear this my confession, forgive all my sins, and renew me by your Holy Spirit for right living. (*Silent confession*)

In Holy Baptism our merciful God has declared us to be his royal children and forgives our sins for Jesus' sake, our risen Savior and Lord. Give praise now to the Lord of heaven and earth and live joyfully as his witnesses in the world. **Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 65:9-13

⁹ Lord, you 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.

¹⁰ **You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² **The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,**

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

HYMN [Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing](#) (*With Lyrics*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. **Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

FIRST READING – Isaiah 55:10-13

SECOND READING – Romans 8:12-17

GOSPEL VERSE (*Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can*)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast](#) (*With Lyrics*)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING PRESENTATION *(Spoken; LBW #561, st.1)*

For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies,

For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise

This our sacrifice of praise.

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

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.

BLESSING *(Romans 15:13)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN [In The Garden](#) *(With Lyrics)*

EXTRA

[Pastor Dave: Fill the Tank](#)

[Parable of the Sower Movie](#) *(Children's Message)*

READINGS

First 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,
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.”

Second Reading: 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.

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.”

PRAYERS

Lord God, all creation sings your praises for you fill it with your glory and call forth it's song of praise. Help us to life our praise to you from pure and faithful hearts. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, your Holy Spirit bears witness in our spirits that we belong to you. Let us exalt in our royal status and ever know the touch of your redeeming love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

O God, your holy Son came among us and sowed into the world the gospel of your kingdom. Let that good word find fertile soil in our hearts that we may cherish and nurture it until it brings forth in our lives a multitude of spiritual fruits, but especially the fruit of faith, hope and love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer your church in all its diverse communities around the world and keep us in one faith, under our one Lord Jesus Christ. Use your people to be the Body of Christ in their communities and give this congregation opportunities for gospel ministry in body and soul. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for all those who have become frail by age and who need constant care. Bless them and every caregiver who serves them with gifts of your grace and love. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for our nation and its leaders. Raise up those who will lead by righteous example and restrain those who would lead us to destruction. As American people, help us to reaffirm what is good in our national story and prick our conscience to put away everything that is evil. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land to use our wealth and resources in such a way that all persons may find fulfillment in their employment and receive just payment for their labor. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, you Son was condemned and suffered as a criminal. Remember all those who sit in our jails and prisons and let the work of your justice bring them to repentance and amendment of life. Release those who are innocent and keep those who work in our penal institutions from becoming brutal or callous. Your Son bid us to care for the poor and to visit those in prison. Give us opportunity to improve the life of those behind bars for mercy's sake. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer, most kind and gracious Father for those whose needs are known to us: (Silent prayers) Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we have prayed, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers for July 12, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Ann Reiser, undergoing cancer treatments (M. Reiser, 6.28.2020)

Rick Boyd, multiple health problems (C. Boyd, 6.21.2020)

Don Hasty undergoing cancer treatments (D. Vorel, 6.18.2020)

Pam Moore, surgery after a bad fall (B. Helmly, 6.13.2020)

Hiland & Rye, life problems (R. Stephenson, 6.7.2020)

Mary Jane Duff, hospitalized for heart problems (K. Hall, 6.7.2020)

Thomas Owens, hospitalized St. Joes (C. Garner, 6.1.2020)

Greg Hall, hospitalized in Charleston (J. Hall, 5.31.20)

Robie Hester, recovering from bypass surgery (M. Reiser, 5.31.20)

Amy Holcomb, health (S. Hobbs, 5.31.20)

Charles DiSalvo, hospitalized at Memorial. (K. Disalvo, 5.31.20)

Eddie Helmey, Covid-19 diagnosis (G. Helmey & A. Lowe, 5.24)

Darius Prescott, Cutter & Cassie, recovering from auto accident (5.17.2020)

Jason Pridgen, liver troubles, friend of Betty Robinson (5.17.2020)

JW Porter, multiple health problems, cousin of Brenda Dasher (5.17.2020)

Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall, 5.17)

Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls, 5.17)

Marcus Zeigler: cancer (son of David & Connie Z, 3.17.2020)

Clyde Johnson, pneumonia (Father of Natalie M, 5.10)

Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Bobby Exley and family on death of daughter, Teresa (J. Arnsdorff, 6.7.2020)

Stacey York and family upon death of her mother Annette (A. Terry, 6.6.2020)

Family of Franklin Davis killed in vehicle accident on Zittrouer Rd (S. White, 5.17.2020)

Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)

Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)

Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton

Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home)

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

“Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” -Matthew 13:8-9

Why do some people respond to God’s word while others don’t? Jesus answers this question in the parable of the soil. In this parable, the seed represents the Word of God, and the soil represents the human heart. If the seed falls upon good soil, it will take root and grow. However, if it falls upon bad soil, it will not grow to maturity. Thus, the human heart must be good and soft for God’s Word to take root and grow within it.

To make this point, Jesus discusses four types of soil. Some hearts are as hard as a well-trodden path. When God’s Word is sown among such hearts, it remains on the surface and is snatched away by hungry birds. Other hearts are like rocky soil. When God’s Word is sown among these hearts, it sprouts up quickly but soon wilts under the heat of persecution since it has no depth of soil. Still other hearts are like thorny soil in which the thorns represent the cares of the world. When God’s Word is sown in these hearts, the thorns grow up and choke it out.

But there is also good soil which is soft. When God’s Word is sown upon good soil, it takes root and grows up to produce much grain. In other words, God’s Word works within a soft heart, causing one to mature in Christ and bear fruit through good works. Lest we try to take credit for a soft heart ready to have the seed of God’s Word planted within us, we remember that it is all in his capable hands. He tills the soil and plants the seeds. He causes the growth and good works.

By our own sinful nature we are all like the hostile, unreceptive soil, but God has the power to change our hearts so that we become receptive to his Word. He does this through the Word itself! Because God’s Word is living and active (Heb 4:12), it creates faith in empty hearts just as it once created the world out of nothing!

Thus, we need not despair as we speak God’s Word to others. Since the Spirit works through the Word, God may well use his word to change the very heart that has been previously unreceptive to his Word!

Prayer: God, give us confidence in the power of your Word to change unbelieving hearts. Amen.

Fill the Tank (of Compassion) - Pastor Dave

The compassion of Jesus for a lost and dying world compelled him to go to the cross to confront and defeat the powers of sin, death and the devil. It was compassion that he felt toward the harassed crowds of Israel during his earthly ministry (Mt. 9:35-38) and for which he asked that the church pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers to go into the field. As we look ahead this year to engaging the harvest fields of Effingham, here are four suggestions to help us begin filling our tanks with Christ’s compassion.

- 1) Set an alarm for 12noon on your phone/watch. Say a short prayer asking for God to fill you with divine compassion and to send laborers into the harvest.
- 2) For those who like to blog/write/express themselves, please feel free to write out prayer petitions around the harvest/compassion theme and mail them to blc.rincon@gmail.com. Pastor will use them on Sundays during the Prayers of the Church.
- 3) Evangelism Committee will be running a children’s Art Contest, kicking off on Sunday School Promotion Sunday, August 9. Details to follow...
- 4) Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring a congregational Prayer Vigil before we gather for our congregational planning meeting on Sept. 19. Details to follow...

Praise is Due

Find the 40 bold words from Psalm 65:1–8 (ESV).

R D E E D S S E N I L O H L F
P K V Z I O N A S B T H S K R
R C E G R R O W L O C H P I S
A R N T W E I E L V O R G E J
Y S I Y P W S S I U A H I I H
E Q N O R S S O T I T T C Z M
R P G J E N E M S E I G I M R
E T O D V A R E O U B N W O E
P U O W A K G U Q X H E A R N
O M D E I F S I T A S R V N O
H U N L L N N L X E I T E I T
W L E L E I A Q A N M S S N A
G T S S X S R S G D U P R G R
H E S N I A T N U O M X L L R
C O U R T S B K H G I R D E D

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed. O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come. When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

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! 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; 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, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

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The Parable of the Sower

Find the 39 bold words from Matthew 13:1-9 (ESV)

S R T E A S D D A M L G S B D
A D A A D C E E I B M E E O E
D R E R S R H H R U O A T R H
S E I E E O T H S U C U R S C
B B P H S S W A U O H O G T T R
N E T T S D P N I N A V B O O
L I S I H S J D L T K G E O C
W L X I U W G R H T A O B D S
D T E S D R S E L B A R A P Z
Y E E F O E R D S N R O H T Y
A J K U T E G F R E W O S G T
E M N O D P R O D U C E D N R
S D O P H M A L R O C K Y O I
G R E A T C I D G O O D K L H
R A E H S U N P F B A H W A T

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**.”

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