



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church- ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving"

6th Sunday after Pentecost *Service of the Word for online worship*

July 12, 2020

NOTE: Bold text indicates worshippers' response

GATHERING

WELCOME and MUTUAL MINISTRY

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 65 and Romans 8*)

ONE: O God, you are to be praised, for you are the one who answers prayers

ALL: Our sins are stronger than we are, but now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

ONE: For God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us to live and love like him.

ALL: Now we are to live in the Spirit, seeking peace and love for all God has created.

ONE: You visit the earth and water it abundantly; its bounty is proof of your creative power

ALL: You have honored us with the role of caring for all you have created.

ONE: Creating God, you can bring new life to dry deserts and low places

ALL: Likewise, the Spirit can give life by leading us to live right with God and others.

ONE: We believe God raised Jesus from the dead.

ALL: We believe God gives new life to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY **Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seeds of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GROWING

God's word to the people of Israel who have been exiled from their home is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands,

A reading from Isaiah 55:10-13.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, 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 be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

The Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter, **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, 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 brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on 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 such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately 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 lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Mary Eide

#535 Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

**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**

*Or, He descended to the dead.

OFFERTORY PRAYER Generous God, **thank you for all you have given to us in life, and for teaching us how to joyously give back in life. Bless the offering we give to you. Bless the financial offering we give so that your work will to be done, as well as what we give of our time and talents. Amen**

NOTE: Remember that you can provide financial offerings via mail, go our website (www.sothem.org) go to GIVE tab and use a secured site to give electronically, or set up a payment via your bank)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (P: Hear us O God... All: Your mercy is great...)

LORD'S PRAYERS

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL Go in peace knowing Jesus Christ is with you always. **Thanks be to God.**

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SCHEDULE /ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday	4-6pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	2pm	LIVE with God on Facebook (short worship)
Friday	10am-12pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	10am	Live and inperson worship (posted later in the day at www.sothem.org)

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The following is provided for ANYONE to use, but especially for our 9th graders who are writing **personal faith statements***. Maybe YOU would like to write one for yourself?

WORSHIP NOTES

Parables are *brief comparison stories drawn from nature and everyday life.*

- They tease the imagination
- Challenge accepted values
- Or illustrate a point

In today's readings or other elements of the worship:

- What do you hear Jesus/God/Spirit saying that connects with your understanding about being a Christian and what you believe?
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- What challenges you or gives you a new understanding about being a Christian?
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- Can you think of a time in your life when you heard the Good News of God's love for you and Jesus' ministry, and it was like seeds thrown on a...
 - *hard path?* (soil/life that was hardened because of life events/relationships)
 - *rocky ground?* (time when you heard it with joy, but the troubles or busyness of life did not allow for deeper roots to grow, and so your joy in the Lord withered)
 - *among thorns?* (where cares of the world and the lure of wealth kept you from God)
 - *good soil?* (hears about the Good News of God's kingdom, understands it, and applies it to your life)

If so...when was it? What was going on?

- How can you nurture the soil of your heart so you can not only hear and understand God's message, but sow more seeds of faith for others to hear and understand?
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A personal faith statement is a explanation of a person's faith in God/what it means to YOU to be a Christian. It is sort of a marker of where you are in your Christian walk in life, at a particular time in your life.

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church	207 University Street, Elk Mound, WI 54739
Office Phone: 715-879-5115	Email: sothlc@sothem.org
Find us on Facebook, too!	Website www.sothem.org
Pastor Mary Eide (H) 715-309-4065	meide@luthersem.edu
Custodian, Terry Stamm 715-379-3728	