

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The service below is for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

Over the past couple of weeks, I hope that all of you received and read the letter by email or regular mail from the Church Council about in-person worship in church. Last Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> we resumed in-person public worship. The letter explains what to expect at the brief Service of the Word with social distancing practices. Be assured that as we move forward, we will continue to send the services electronically for all who choose to worship in that way.

Please continue to keep in your prayers all those with COVID 19, all hospital and medical personnel, and all essential workers on the front lines. Remember also those in the teaching professions as they prepare for a new school with the need for adaptations and new practices in uncertain times. In addition, please continue to pray for meaningful conversation, understanding, and safety for all in our nation.

The service follows below with links for music and the sermon within the service. May God bless you and your loved ones with faith, compassion, and understanding, well-being.

Pastor John



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
5800 Long Beach Blvd. Cody  
Brant Beach, NJ 08008  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday July 12, 2020



**Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,  
Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our ☩ Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Hymn**     *Lord, let My Heart be Good Soil*  
                  "Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
                  open to the seed of your Word."

"Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil" was written by Handt Hansen (1930 - ) in 1985. Based on the Parable of the Sower, its lyrics relay the powerful message that while seeds' ability to flourish may be determined by numerous conditions, they have the potential to fall on good soil, where they can produce a crop - a hundred, sixty times or thirty times what was sown. (as described in Matthew 13:9 NRSV)

The highlight, however, of the parable is neither about the seeds nor the soil, but rather the sower. The words encourage us to sow in our hearts as well as look for seeds of *love, peach, forgiveness, kindness* and *goodness* that have been sown in our midst. By hearing the Word and understanding it we, too, can become good soil, flourish and bear fruit!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l2HJMdwWng>

**Greeting**

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

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed 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.**

## Word

### Readings

#### First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead 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.

#### Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When 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. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet

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. <sup>22</sup>As 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. <sup>23</sup>But 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.”

### **Sermon**

<https://youtu.be/yGdSTh14Drg>

### **Apostles Creed**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, care for all who are in need of healing and wholeness including all with COVID 19, their caregivers, and those on our parish prayer list (*especially*). For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries (*especially*) and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died (*especially Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, whom we commemorate today*). Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.

### **Sending**

#### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

#### **Hymn** *Shout To The Lord*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_alauL2xKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_alauL2xKA)

#### **Dismissal**

Go in Peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

We are praying for the following:

Dawne	Bev	Leo
Jean	John	Alex
Robert	Mary Ellen	Melissa
John Jr.	Dick	Emil
Tim	Bobby	Megan
Phyllis	Pat	Carol L.
Michelle	Carol	Fred
Cody	Sandy	Linda
Lynn	Judi	

