**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, July 12, 2020**

**\*If you are joining us in person, please tune your radio to 1620 AM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRELUDE**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**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 help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.** **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song“Open Now Thy Gates of Bounty” (ELW 533)**



**GREETING**

The grace of our 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**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

### First Reading    Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah.

10For 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,  
 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;  
 the mountains and the hills before you  
  shall burst into song,  
  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 be to the Lord for a memorial,  
  for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13**

[ 1You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;  
  to you shall vows | be fulfilled.  
 2**To you, the one | who answers prayer,**  
  **to you all | flesh shall come.**  
 3Our sins are strong- | er than we are,  
  but you blot out | our transgressions.

4**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!**  
  **They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple.**   
 5Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,  
  O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.  
 6**You make firm the mountains | by your power;**  
  **you are girded a- | bout with might.**  
 7You still the roaring | of the seas,  
  the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.  
 8**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;**  
  **you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.** ]

9You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full of water.  
  You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.  
 10**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;**  
  **with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**  
 11You crown the year | with your goodness,  
  and your paths over- | flow with plenty.  
 12**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,**  
  **and the hills be | clothed with joy.**  
 13May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;  
  let them shout for | joy and sing.

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

A reading from Romans.

1There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3For 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, 4so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5For 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. 6To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For 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, 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9But 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. 10But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11If 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**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 Buffy Meyers**

**Hymn of the Day “Will You Come and Follow Me” (ELW 798)**





**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**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. We pray especially for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and rev Nan Dehnke. 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. 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 and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. 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.**

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement

grant you to live in harmony with one another,

in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” (ELW 551)**



**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Lawn mowing: Zion’s lawn was mowed each week in June! Thank you to all who helped make this happen! July is open for anyone able to help with mowing the parsonage and church lawns. Please contact Tom Krikke if you are able to mow. Available weeks are:
  + July 13
  + July 20
  + July 27
* Upstairs refrigerator: The church’s main refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen is no longer in service. It was running nonstop and no longer staying cold. All items that were still good have been moved to the downstairs refrigerator.   
  The ZLCW is researching a new refrigerator. Since there is not a rush we plan to take our time to ensure we find a good fit and have one that we know can be serviced in the future by local repair places.   
  The plan is to scrap the refrigerator as it is too costly to repair and this model does not meet current energy requirements. Please see a member of the ZLCW board with any questions.
* We are still in need of volunteers to be Bible Buddies! The boards of youth/education are working on pairing adults with our children and youth as Bible Buddies. We have close to 30 children and youth connected to Zion. This is not a hard task. If you are willing to send cards or notes with words of encouragement and sharing Bible verses to one or two of our children and teens, wonderful intergenerational relationships can be developed. Please contact Tara if you are interested.