



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Of the Good Shepherd  
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**A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*"We are a caring family of God nourished by the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit to  
share the love of Jesus Christ."*

Service of the Word – July 12, 2020 – 9:30 am.

“Time after Pentecost”

**Please be considerate to those around you and observe silence during the prelude and service. This time is designed for personal meditation.**

When you see the following symbol “+”, please stand.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)**

**“PEACE”**

**C. FRANCK**

**+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

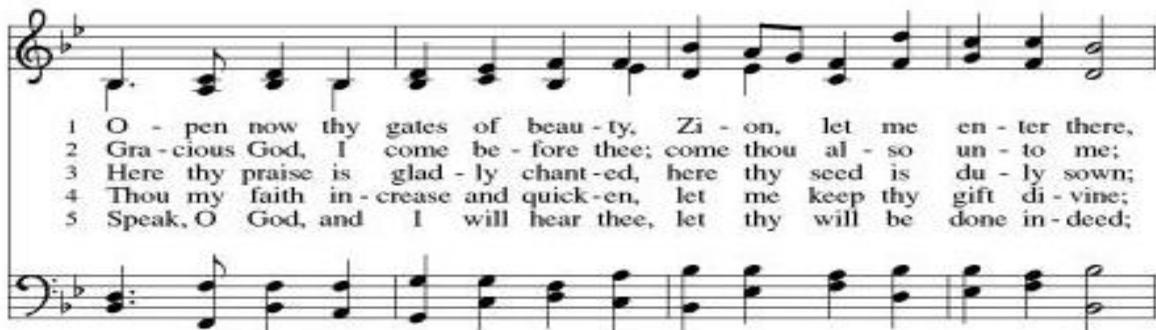
Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+ GATHERING HYMN

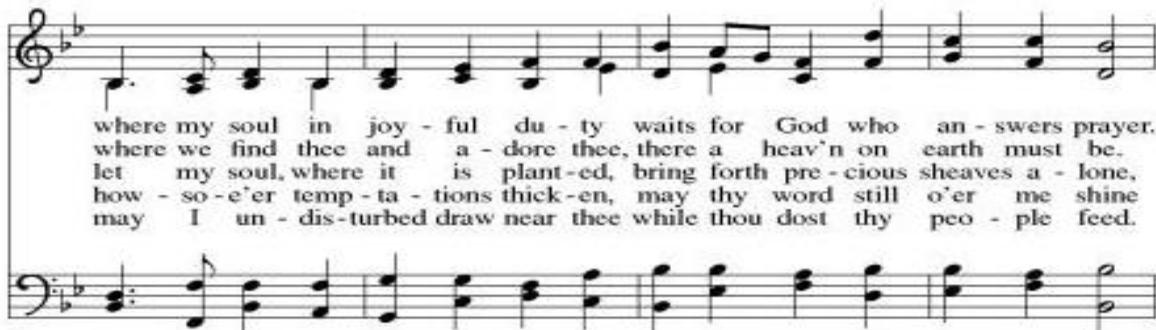
*"OPEN NOW THE GATES OF BEAUTY"*

ELW 533

## Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thic - ken, may thy word still o'er me shine  
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

## + APOSTOLIC 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

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

<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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 (Read Responsively)

[ <sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one | who answers prayer,  
to you all | flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are strong- | er than we are,  
but you blot out | our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**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. R**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome 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.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains | by your power;  
you are girded a- | bout with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring | of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**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. R**

] <sup>9</sup>You 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.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year | with your goodness,  
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,  
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves  
with grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing. **R**

## 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The holy gospel according to St. \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

# HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS  
CAST”

ELW 516

## Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,

now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.  
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

# OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“ARIA”

J.S. BACH

## +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.**

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\*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. 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 (*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.**

+ **BENEDICTION**

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.**

+ **SENDING HYMN**

*“ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN”*

**ELW 550**

**On What Has Now Been Sown**

1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

**“CONCERTO IN A MINOR”**

**VIVALDI-BACH**

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We welcome all visitors with us and ask that you sign our guest register. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider the Good Shepherd family.

**LIVING GIFTS** have been designated by:

Scott & Michelle McMahan to Major Repairs.

Barb Henderson and Family to Major Repairs in loving memory of Allison Henderson.

Jack & Dorothy Gesalman to Vacation Bible School in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

Jack & Dorothy Gesalman to Vacation Bible School in recognition of Great Grandson, Charles' first birthday.

*Thank you to Harry Harbaugh for supplying this weekend.*

**W/E.L.C.A.**

**WELCA/BGS Meeting Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm.**

Attention all women. We will meet at 7 pm to discuss and revamp our schedule for the remainder of the year. Your input is important. After the meeting we will switch to books and games. Individually wrapped ice cream treats will be served. Note that under CDC rules no homemade snacks are allowed at this time for any meetings in the church.