

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

Virtual/Online and Parking Lot Worship (10:15)



## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together,

C: **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.**

## On What Has Now Been Sown

### Verse 1

On what has now been sown your blessing Lord, bestow; the pow'r is yours alone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in grace the harvest raise, and yours alone shall be the praise!

### Verse 2

To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; accept what is your own and pardon what is ours. Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive and to your word a blessing give.

### Verse 3

Oh, grant that each of us, now met before you here, may meet together thus when you and yours appear, and follow you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus come!

## First Reading: Romans 8:1-11

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

<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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 65

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

**2 O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.**

3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

**4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.**

5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

**6 By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.**

7 You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

**8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

9 You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with 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 richness.

**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 with joy.

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

*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.*

P: A reading from... **C: 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon – Pastor Paul

### 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 the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

#### 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.

### Announcements / Final Blessing

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### Let the Rain Come

#### Verse 1

We are thirsty for You to flood our lives, we are thirsty for You today.  
We are thirsty to see and savor Christ; Lord, send Your revival rain.

#### Pre-Chorus

Let it rain, let it rain. Open up the heavens once again.

#### Chorus

Our Father in heaven, send the rain, fall again on us.  
For Your kingdom, Your glory, send the rain,  
let the rain come, let the rain come on us.

#### Verse 2

Holy Spirit, the more we see of Christ, we'll have passion to make Him known.  
Then the whole world might know that You are God: Lord send Your revival rain.

### Pre-Chorus

Let it rain, let it rain. Open up the heavens once again.

### Chorus

Our Father in heaven, send the rain, fall again on us.  
For Your kingdom, Your glory, send the rain,  
let the rain come, let the rain come on us.

### Bridge

Let the rain come, let the rain come, let the rain come, let the rain come,  
let the rain come, let the rain come, on us.  
(REPEAT)

### Pre-Chorus

Let it rain, let it rain. Open up the heavens once again.

### Chorus

Our Father in heaven, send the rain, fall again on us.  
For Your kingdom, Your glory, send the rain,  
let the rain come, let the rain come on us.

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*July, 2020*

**"2.0" is coming!** We are excited to announce that a new experience is coming soon for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights** later this summer, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. More info coming soon! We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

**The JULY issue of the STAR is here!** Thanks to an anonymous donor, printed copies of our STAR newsletter will be mailed to members. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With the recent rescinding of Gov. Whitmer's full stay-at-home order and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different "phases" of safety for re-opening gathering venues, **we continue this week with our last "Parking Lot Worship" service**, offering Parking Lot Communion after worship. **We hope to move outside of our cars to the West Lawn (aka "Greenspace Worship") next Sunday, July 19th.** Safety is our primary concern.

The outdoor “**Shooting STAR Dispenser**” at BLC is now full with new DVDs for April and May virtual church services and several paper publications, including the June STAR. More recent DVDs on the way.

**Altar flowers have returned to our worship services.** If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org).

**Today’s altar flowers** are donated by: *the Congregation in thanks for all of God’s blessings.*

With onsite worship at Bethlehem being very popular, **today, July 12<sup>th</sup>, is the last day for Sunday Zoom Fellowship.** See below for information for more fellowship and Bible Study opportunities.

**Share your name please** Some of us are finding that not seeing an entire face and dealing with sunglasses causes us to have more difficulty knowing and calling other BLC members by name. If you enjoy being greeted by name please consider placing your name on your dashboard while drive-through communion is occurring. If you have an extra name tag at home you may want to consider wearing it when green space services occur. And **please be sure to wear your name tag when the time comes to re-enter church.**

**Keep "Hope Spreading":** Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now virtual!!!** Introducing “Bible Stories” each Monday at 6PM on Zoom. Registration open all summer long so go to [myvbs.com/blcbiblestories](http://myvbs.com/blcbiblestories) and register your child TODAY to get the Zoom Link! Please contact Annie Slabaugh at [annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

**Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Annual Chili Cook Off** has been postponed to a later date, as was our May Jubilee service. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the fall!)

**Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:45pm on Wednesdays.** We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

**"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is "Luke and Acts ToGather" and whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet... which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about. We will likely switch to become a book study in late July, using the Walt Wangerin book ***Paul: A Novel***, on the famous apostle.