



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Pontiac, IL
July 12, 2020
6th Sunday after Pentecost**

We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.

Welcome

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God's Peace be with you,
Pastor Mathew

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Friday is Pastor Mathew's day off.

Introduction to the day

Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table, we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we have not trusted your abundance in our lives.
we rely on our own efforts.

Forgive us, O God.

we fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
we abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

Forgive us, O God.

we fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.

Forgive us, O God.

we sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace,

Forgive us, O God.

through your love,

renew us, O God.

and in your Spirit,

lead us, O God

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Let the church say Amen.

Amen.

Loved ones of God,
by the wide abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ☩ Christ Jesus,
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. Let the church say amen.

Amen.

Greeting

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

A: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

First Reading—Isaiah 55: 10-13

L: A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky
and don't return there without watering the earth,
making it conceive and yield plants
and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that comes from my mouth;
it does not return to me empty.
Instead, it does what I want,
and accomplishes what I intend.

¹² Yes, you will go out with celebration,
and you will be brought back in peace.

Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

¹³ In place of the thorn the cypress will grow;
in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow.

This will attest to the LORD's stature,
an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Gospel—Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore. ³He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. ⁴As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. ⁶But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. ⁷Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. ⁸Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. ⁹Everyone who has ears should pay attention.” ¹⁸“Consider then the parable of the farmer. ¹⁹Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. ²⁰As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. ²¹Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. ²²As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. ²³As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O, Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Mathew Berger

Special Music

The Sower’s Song

Andrew Peterson

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Hear us, O God.” The congregation is invited to respond, “**Your mercy is great.**”

Sharing the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors by waving to one another and saying or typing, "Peace be with you."

Offerings can be given by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764. You can give online at <http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/>

Offering Prayer

L: God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

A: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name forever.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,
A: **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.**

Invitation to Communion

L: Friends of Jesus, share in this meal. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Prayer after Communion

L: God of the welcome table,
In this meal we have feasted on your goodness
And have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
So that we may share your neighborly love with all,
Through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

A: Amen.

Announcements

SENDING

Benediction

L: 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.

A: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

A: Thanks be to God.

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today's service: Lector: Dawn Boitnott, Ushers: Sandy Erickson and Mark Mackinson, Brad Solberg, Sara Solberg Musician: Julie Mehlberg.