



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

July 12, 2020

Welcome! God's Word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth new life. It is also like the sower who scatters good seed in abundance. Our lives are like those seeds sown into the earth. Even from what sometimes appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. As we are gathered for worship this day, nourished by the Word, and then sent back into our weekly worlds for mission, may our lives also bring forth an abundance of the life-giving fruit of God's Kingdom.



+ LITURGY OF THE WORD +

Prelude

Three Chorale Prelude's by J.S. Bach

**"This Day is Full of Joy" "Christian People Now be Joyful"
"Lord God, Now Open the Heavens"**

Bells

Welcome

Litany of the Seed

The seed of Your kingdom is forever being sown into our lives, our world, O God.
But it doesn't always take root. Sometimes it fails to find a place to grow.

And so we pray for ourselves and others:

That when life makes us hard and resistant like a well-trodden path,
**where old habits, old systems and old patterns of thinking
keep your message from growing;**

When we become so immersed in the short-lived, shallow, rock-hiding soil of the moment,
where the life you offer too easily gets blown away by the wind;

When our fears, insecurities, desires, and self-absorption
tangle like thorns around your grace and choke it into silence;

Yet also when your truth brings out the best in us,
and we grow fruitful in compassion and justice in service and mission;

The seed of your Kingdom is forever being sown into our lives and our world, O God;
**May it find good soil, may it grow and may it produce a harvest of life, peace, joy and love
in us and across the world. Amen.**

Choir

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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

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.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

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.**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. 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

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

"Deep River" by Burleigh

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, we pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need:

God of promise, we pray for your Church, that in a world today where people hunger for truth, authenticity, and a deeper meaning of life, they may see growing in us the full fruit of your Kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord God, for those opportunities to share our own stories of faith, that we may offer others seeds of faith from our own continual growth in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and for all faith communities, that the cares of the world not crowd out all that your Holy Spirit seeks to sow among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we pray for all who struggle, for all who hunger for love and for acceptance, and for all who have difficulty simply making it through the day. We pray for all whose hearts are steered by fear or by anger, and for your peace to breathe upon them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We continue to lift up to you, O God, the needs of your people, including *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Bill Rickrim, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Bonnie Eckhardt, Albert and Deleyce Tietze, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Nat Castillo, Bill Witte, Beth Knox, Tom Bartholomew, Ashleigh Montague, Becky Coffey, the Torres family, the Garcia family,* as well as those whom we name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your good hands, O God, we place ourselves and our prayers, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help 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.**

Presentation of Bibles to Our 2020 Graduates

Wesley Arnold, Patrick Conroy, Paul Conroy, Felipa Mendez, Olivia McKenna-Stevens, Christian Stevens

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, protect you, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Postlude Recessional on "Azmon: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" by E. L. Good

This Week at St. John's

Today, July 12 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, July 12 @ 10:00am	Worship
Wednesday, July 15 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81142355653)

(Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.)

Ministry Opportunities at Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)

CAM Annual Back-to-School Program

If you are interested in "adopting" a child by purchasing the school supplies they need for the school year, contact Nora Oyler at noyler@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099.

Clothing Needs

CAM is accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women. Items needed are casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. Currently, CAM is not accepting any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear. Contact Sarah Kory at skory@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

Help Feed the Hungry

Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM around 11:00am. If you would like more information about this ministry and how you can lend support, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org
The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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