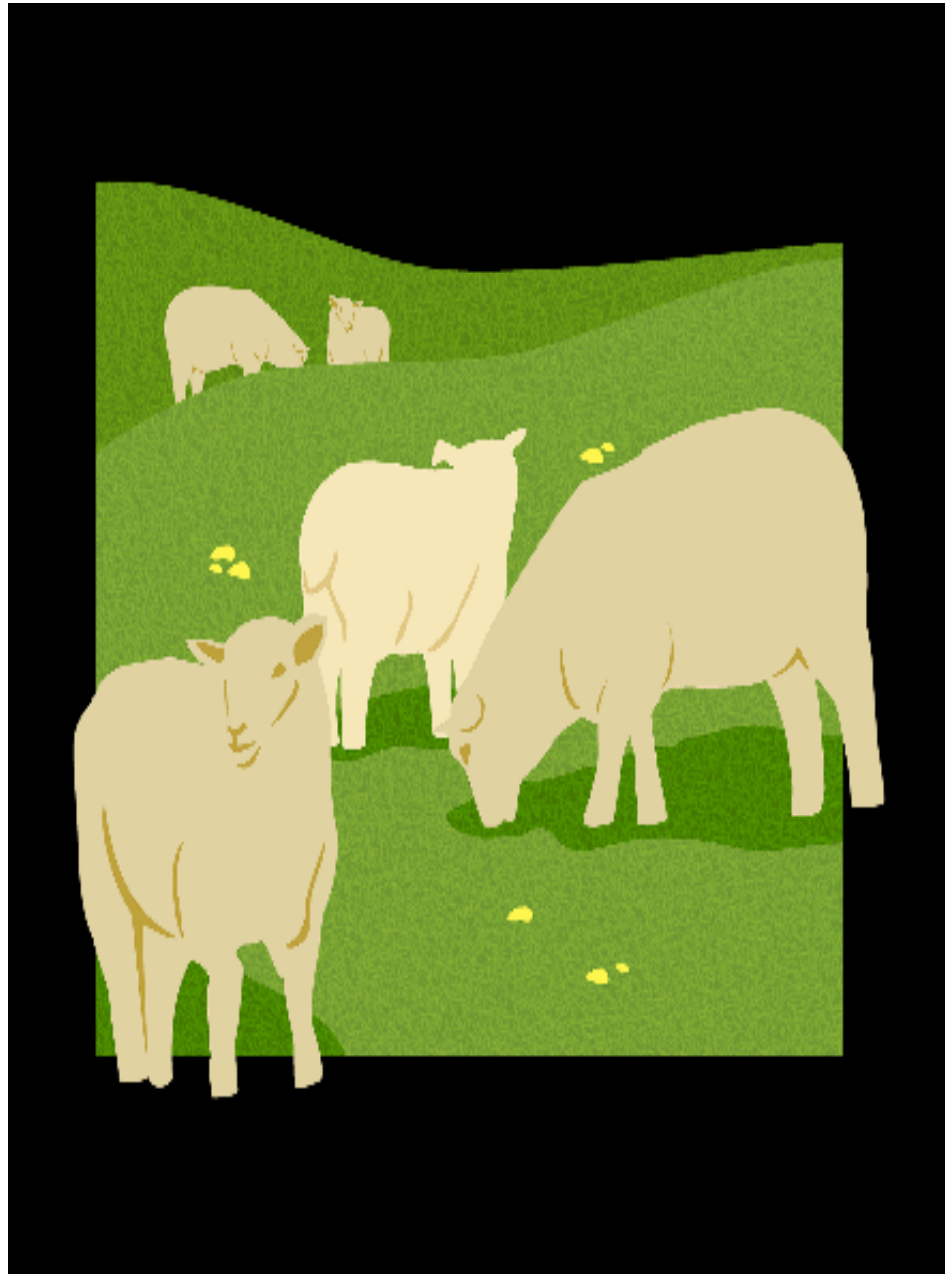


Believe. Become. Belong.



Luther Memorial Church

818 Tinton Avenue

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

(732) 542-2727

July 12, 2020; 8 & 9:00AM

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Virtual & On-Site Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

The Word works! The Word of God is our only source of everlasting life. Through Isaiah, God explains that His Word is as effective as rain causing growth in plants. As David writes poetically, His care causes all the trees of the field to clap their hands. And the Word will work in our lives so that we will “go out in joy and be led forth in peace,” as Isaiah puts it. Indeed, Jesus, the Word in the flesh, succeeded in giving us peace and joy by rising victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. As a result, Paul explains in the Epistle, we are God’s adopted children, calling out to Him, “Abba, Father.” But there is work for us to do! As we let the Word work through us, we can expect that, in spite of opposition of all sorts from the world, if we but hear and understand, we will certainly bear fruit for our heavenly Father.



✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, who has given us this good earth in which to live and who sends rain and sun to cause plants to produce fruit and grain for harvest,

C: **continue to send Your life-giving Word to us so that we resist the cares of this world and return to You a harvest of new sons and daughters,**

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: In the today's Epistle, Paul reminds us that "the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Let us therefore go to our gracious heavenly Father, confessing our sins.

In the Old Testament Reading, God promises, "My word . . . shall not return to Me empty; it shall accomplish . . . and shall succeed."

C: But we do not trust You in all things. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, heavenly Father.

P: Then God tells us, "You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace."

C: But we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Hear us, free us, and lead us in paths pleasing to You, heavenly Father.

P: In the Gospel, our Lord explains that "the one who hears the word and understands it . . . bears fruit." By the grace of God, we believe and understand that Jesus, the Word of God in the flesh, succeeded in destroying death and rising victorious for us. For His sake, God forgives us and uses us to bear fruit for Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Word planted inside you produce a great harvest for our gracious Lord.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

BIBLE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT:

Isaiah 55:10–13

(God's Word accomplishes His plans as surely as rain gives growth to plants.)

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, 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 make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE:**Romans 8:12–17****(Because the Spirit leads us, we know we are children of God.)**

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL**Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23****(Whoever hears the Word and understands it will produce a great harvest for God in spite of worldly opposition.)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . . 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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was

sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: We use today’s psalm as we pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various circumstance.

David writes, “O You who hears prayer, to You shall all flesh come.” Let us pray for those near and dear to us, who call to God in their distress.

C: **Heavenly Father, visit, relieve, restore, and console them in Your mercy, and use us to help meet their needs.**

P: David writes, “When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.” Let us pray for all who are wrongly accused or imprisoned by corrupt court systems.

C: **Lord of the nations, give them justice, clear their names, and free them; move governments to make reforms where they are needed.**

P: And let us pray for those who have acted rashly, destroyed relationships, or run afoul of civil laws.

C: **Lord Jesus, provide them opportunities and faithful counselors that they hear of Your mercy, repent, and repair their broken lives.**

P: David writes, “We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple.” Let us pray for the Church here and around the world.

C: **O Holy Spirit, bless, protect, and guide Your people as they proclaim the Gospel, and invite one and all to the joys of Your mercy, forgiveness, and love.**

P: David writes, “By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness.” Let us pray for all who make, administer, and adjudicate their nation’s laws and seek peace across borders, and for all who serve their communities and nations by putting themselves in harm’s way.

C: **Lord Jesus, raise up good and righteous people in positions of power, and give protection and courage to those having to make sudden decisions.**

P: David writes, “You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it.” Let us pray for all who tend the soil, transport crops, and distribute food where it is needed.

C: Gracious God, send rain and sun to farms, protection to pilots and drivers, and guidance for those who manage markets; through their efforts grant that all the hungry be fed.

P: David writes, “You crown the year with Your bounty.” Let us pray for those who are unemployed or underemployed, those who lack adequate clothing or shelter, and all burdened with financial debt.

C: O Holy Spirit, open doors of opportunity so that they may provide for themselves and their families, rejoicing in all Your good gifts.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

**C: 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

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

