

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

11-12 July 2020

The SERVICE of EVENING and MORNING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER CONCERNS & THANKSGIVINGS

OPENING SENTENCE

Stand *Officiant* This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118: 24

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION of SIN

Officiant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

Most merciful God,

All: **we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The priest offers Absolution.

Officiant: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *

All: **serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise;*

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Sit PSALTER **Psalm 65: 1, 9-13** *read responsively observing the verse*

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *

to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

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.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *

with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, *

and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *

and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,

and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *

let them shout for joy and sing.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55: 10-13

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, 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. 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. 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.

Here ends the Reading.

CANTICLE *The First Song of Isaiah* (Isaiah 12:2-6) BCP p.86

Officiant: Surely, it is God who saves me; *

All: **I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.**

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Sit SECOND READING

Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

Jesus told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 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. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 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. 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.

Here ends the Reading.

Stand The APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant: I believe in God,

All: **the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.**

MEDITATION

The PRAYERS

Officiant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The SUFFRAGES - A

BCP p. 97-98

Verse. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

Response. **And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. **Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Three Collects follow:

(of the Day, for Guidance, for Mission)

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS & THANKSGIVINGS

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our Bishop; for the Diocesan staff; and for all ministers and people.

I ask your prayers for this parish family, and for all who remain isolated from their community of faith.

Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. I ask your prayers for those who govern and hold authority in the nations; that they may be led to govern with equity and justice for the benefit of the entire human family. Inspire them to discover new ways of overcoming divisions and mistrust. We pray for Donald, the President of the United States, the Congress, Thomas our Governor, and Sarah, mayor of our Borough.

Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison, especially Justin and Mitchell.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially those killed by violent acts and those who succumbed to the coronavirus.

Pray for those who have died.

I ask your prayers for the sick, the infirm and the elderly, especially Rob and Russ.

I ask your thanksgiving for those who celebrate this week Jane Bunnell, William Bush, Jeanne Roskoski, Peggy O'Connor and Ashley Starnes.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people. And what we have asked faithfully, may we receive effectually to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly offer this prayer meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

Officiant: God of all power and love,

All: **we give thanks for your unfailing presence**

and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:

**a people who pray, worship, learn, [break bread],
share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice,
rest and grow in the Spirit.**

Wherever and however we gather,

**unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The blessing of God Almighty ☩ be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MORE than 25 - We are happy to announce that the Diocese has granted parishes to allow larger gatherings for worship - still observing social distancing and masks as we have been doing. There are only 20 pews available, but with family members sharing a pew (as is allowed) we can remain safe and faithful.

PRIVATE COMMUNION - The Sr. Warden and Fr. Erb have concurred that it would be possible for Communion to be brought to individuals and families in their home, while observing the cautions of group gatherings. We invite you to contact Fr. Erb to arrange a convenient time for him to visit. (570) 241-2685 or rector@gracechurchhonesdale.org

VESTRY - will be meeting by Zoom this morning.

DAUGHTERS of the KING - Will meet in the Parish Hall Courtyard next Sunday, July 19th at 11:15 with a 'bag lunch.' They will be reviewing the book from the National Church, *Walk in Love.*

BROTHERS of St. ANDREW - Dave Faux is asking guys when would be convenient to meet, considering summer vacations. Possibilities are Saturdays, July 25th or August 1st or 8th at 11:00 and/or noon.

BIBLE STUDY - Would you like to "Zoom" through the Bible? Several have asked if we could gather Virtually in a new way. One suggestion was Tuesday Zooms for 30-40 minutes at noon. Bring your own sandwich. Interested? Let Fr. Erb know if this time is good, or you'd like another time. And what book of the Bible really intrigues you?

PARISH "YARD" SALE - Get rid of all the stuff you have cleaned out of your attic, basement and garage these past months. We'll rent 8' tables on Ninth Street for \$15 each - possibly on Saturday, August 8th. Stay tuned and let Fr. Erb know if you would like to reserve a space.

FATHER ERB will be away on vacation this week. In a pastoral emergency, continue to call or text his cell-phone: 570-241-2685.

GRACE CHURCH
Proper 10-A (RCL, track one)

Honesdale, PA
11-12 July 2020

Isaiah 55: 10-13
Psalm 65: 1, 9-13
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

HEAR NO GOOD; SEE NO GOOD; SPEAK NO GOOD

+ + +

Three monkeys sitting on a wall.
One covered his ears with his hands,
 second covered her eyes,
 three covered his mouth,
 only because one and two gagged him too tight
 with his bandana keeping him quiet.
Hear no Good,
 See no Good,
 Speak no Good.

The first decided there was absolutely nothing in the world
 worth listening to:
Everything was noise and idle talking heads disagreeing with each other.
He couldn't stand the clattering and banging and shouting he heard.
The second had seen everything there was to see -
 all the pain and suffering that was shaking the people of the world.
No, she could go quite happily the rest of her life
 seeing nothing but the darkness of her mind.

The third monkey was always chattering - annoyingly -
 about everything he had ever seen or heard.
 Mostly the good old days.

Blind and deaf to the world, he chattered endlessly.
Thusly, One and Two had gagged him, not wanting to hear his rantings,
 telling him never to speak to them again.

Hear no Good.
See no Good.
Speak no Good.

There was no music in the world that fell on the ears of Number One.
Only complaining, angry words, threats and idle promises.
No music of the universe to soothe, comfort and to bring peace.
But now, with hands covering, blessed silence.
Yet he shut his ears to the singing of the birds,
 the soft cooing of a baby newly born,
 the children laughing as they ran in the fields
 and swinging in the parks.
All he heard was bickering and the ripping of toys.
 A miserable life.

The second monkey would see no beauty
 with hands clasped to her eyes.
She had walked the streets of desecration, protests and looting.
Her flowers were all trampled and crushed.
In desperation, she sought refuge in the museums,
 and saw splattered paint and twisted metal
 and ancient stone carved into grotesques.
She could see no more beauty in Creation.

Our third monkey could only feed off his brother and sister.
His songs of joy were stifled, the sweet tones choked in his throat,
 weeds of the earth winding the gag across his mouth
 all that was heard was the cacophany - the noise of protest.

Cutting, biting, divisive words, fed by individual goals -
seeds of despair, anger and hatred.

Weeds all around;
shallow soil, rocky soil, hardened, cemented pavement.
No good soil for the seeds of God to spring forth and bear good fruit.

*As for the seed that is sown of the path,
the evil one comes and snatches it away.
This is when someone hears the word
and does not understand it.*

*As for the seed sown on the rocks,
this is one who gladly hears the word
but has no depth to give it growth,
trials and temptations cause its roots to wither.*

*As for the thorns,
they choke the seed with the cares and desires of the world.*

All these yield nothing in the Kingdom of God.

Hear no Good
See no Good
Speak no Good

But what of those ears who hear the music of the Universe -
God's voice and Creation opens her voice to sing.
Hear the Good.

What of those who cherish the poetry written in the hearts
of the people of every color and identity who live around them.
See the Good.

What of those who speak the words of joy, of wonder, of kindness,
of peace between God's people.
Speak the Good.

These are the seeds of God's harvest which fall on fertile soil.

The second monkey breathed a deep breath in sorrow.
And the fragrance of a summer rose filled her being.
And she sighed.

The first monkey saw the contented smile on her face
and was about to ask what was wrong,
when a kitten ball of fur tickled his feet with her tail.

Our third monkey heard the gentle sigh and the amused giggle,
and as he turned his head to see what was going on,
his gag fell open
and a melody of joy rose from his throat.

“This is the seed that falls upon the fertile soil.”

Open our eyes, O God, to see your beauty.
Open our ears to hear your word.
Open our mouths to tell of your wonder.
And open our hearts to provide the harvest of your Kingdom, O God.
Amen.