

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost | Lectionary 15

July 12, 2020

Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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Congregational responses are printed in bold type.

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PRELUDE & BELLS *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

WELCOME *congregation responds* **and unto ages of ages. Amen.**

We stand OPENING HYMN

#553

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS✠

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

Most merciful God... **we confess that we are born captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I declare to you- who believe and repent- the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

“Glory to God in the Highest”

2 Corinthians 13:13

p. 148 Luke 2:14



☐ Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



☑ Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:



We wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je- sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa- ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a- way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat- ed at the right hand of the Fa- ther; re- ceive our prayer.



For you a- lone are the Ho- ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,



you a- lone are the Most High, Je- sus Christ, with the Ho- ly Spir- it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... 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**

WORD

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: DEUTERONOMY 30:14
The word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.

We sit 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!**

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 65:9-14

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

¹⁰**You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth.**

¹¹You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

¹²**You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.**

¹³May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹⁴**May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves
with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.**

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!**

We stand. GOSPEL VERSE: John 6:68

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

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!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

#516

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

God Grows His Church:

Are You Growing?

We stand. PROFESSION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the + resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*means whole, entire Christian

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us lift our hearts, hands, and voices in prayer to God on behalf of all people.
A brief silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the simple images of seeds and soil. Thank you for using what we're familiar with to point us to deeper truths. Thank you that we don't need a Ph.D., a corner office, or a million Twitter followers to bear rich fruit, to your glory and for the nourishment of people famished for your healing and life-giving love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the Church with the Holy Spirit. Make it beautiful with holiness and rich with wisdom. Let your Word take root in it and accomplish that which you purpose. Draw all flesh into its courts; hear their prayers; forgive their sins; and accomplish their salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant patience, courage, and gentleness to everyone who is persecuted on account of Jesus; and do not let their witness to you return to you empty. Uproot the stones and weeds from the hearts of their tormentors, so that they may bear the fruits of repentance and be saved.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deal mercifully with this congregation. Make our words, deliberations, and ministries faithful and fruitful. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus, and to support Solid Rock our mission in action. Uproot the deep-rooted weeds and remove the stubborn stones of sin from the fields of our lives. Break down the hard-trodden paths of worldly customs. Make your Word grow so richly that many hearts may be nourished through our presence in your world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for favorable weather and fruitful earth; for the fields and orchards, flocks and herds, streams and seas which nourish us all. Bless farmers and ranchers, fishers and shepherds, gardeners and all whose knowledge and effort helps to protect, preserve, and wisely use the gifts of creation. Help us to be generous stewards of your bounty, sharing with all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation, beset by troubles and strife, yet still our beloved country. Reform its laws, purify its speech, instruct its leaders, and soften every heart to see one another as your beloved children, created in your image and redeemed at great cost by your dear Son.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You intend for us to live in joy and peace; yet in this sin-darkened world, violence, injustice, and evil threaten so many. We pray for those tasked with defending life and liberty. Conform their actions to your will, so all may enjoy the fruits of safety, concord, freedom, and justice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and hope to everyone who is afflicted by sorrow, suffering and sin – especially {List}. Lead them out of their darkness into the brightness of your saving love. Grant peace to their hearts and joy to their loved ones, that together they may praise your awesome deeds of salvation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, dear Father, for all who have died trusting in you. We pray for the families of {List}. Lead and guide us, who still walk a road that is stony and desolate, overgrown with the thorns of sin and briars of violence. Refresh us in this wilderness. Give us nourishment for our bodies, hope for our hearts, and your Spirit to abide with us along life's way. Crown our years with blessing. By the merits of your dear Son, gather us safely to yourself, where with all whom you have redeemed, we may sing with joy forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive and graciously answer our prayer, heavenly Father, for the sake of your dear Son; and by the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the strength and will to accomplish whatever you call us to do. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

We briefly greet those in our row with a handshake and the words "Peace be with you."

OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering.

Your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts.

Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available by scanning this code & on our website stpeterhallettsville.org/giving

We stand #184

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”

Isaiah 5:1, Psalm 23:5, others

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed, . . . Do this for the remembrance of me.

All honor and glory are yours . . . now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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

Even though you are physically absent from our celebration of the mystery of our Lord's Body and Blood, you are encouraged to concentrate, reflect, and meditate on the blessing he bestows upon us, to cultivate in your heart, mind, and spirit an earnest desire for the sacrament in which we are promised that with the bread and wine his body and blood are given and shed FOR YOU for the forgiveness of your sins. We pray that the day of our reunion will be soon. Come to the Banquet for all is now ready. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine. All who are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and who believe the Lord's words "This is my body given for you" and "This is my blood poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins" may receive Communion. Young children, not yet receiving Communion, may receive a blessing.

(Matt 26:26ff, Mark 14:22ff, Luke 22:19ff, 1 Cor. 11:24ff)

Communion administration occurs in a continuous fashion at the Communion rail. The ushers will guide you to the rail. To receive the elements, extend your hand, palm up, to the ministers. White grape juice is available in the center of the trays. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

p154 John 1:29



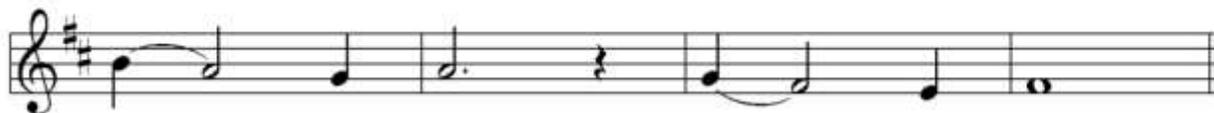
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER

May the body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Lord, Now You Let”

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray... we give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing powers of this gift of life. In your mercy strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**
Silence is kept for reflection.

BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

We stand. CLOSING HYMN
#508

“As Rain from the Clouds”

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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(361) 798-2808 www.stpeterhallettsville.org

Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Calling all Dads of School Aged Children on Tuesday, July 14th let's watch some baseball as the Victoria General take on the barnstorming San Antonio Flying Chanclas, in the Texas Collegiate League. The tickets are free because the evening's promo is sponsored by Texas Roadhouse. This gathering is just for you dads of school children. Those who want to carpool can meet at St. Peter at 5:55 pm. We will all meet outside the ticket gate at 6:45 pm. Come on down. Hangout with the other dads. We all know parenting gets tougher by the year. Connect with some other fathers and your heavenly Father so that no man gets left behind.

July Personal Care Item: large sturdy comb

VBS Rocky Railway has been cancelled,

Adult Education on Sundays: Pastor will email a Zoom link to you on Sunday morning if you would like to participate. Class will begin at 10:30 am.

Thank you to all who helped put the Chrismons together for our new Christmas Tree!

If you have prayer requests, you may email or call the office and leave a message.

There will be no Men & Women in Mission Meeting in July.

St Peter Blood Drive will be on Sunday, August 2nd from 8:00 am – Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Once again you will need to make an appointment. Donors will be given the opportunity to have their blood tested for Covid 19 antibodies for free.

St Peter Women in Mission's Tea has been cancelled.

SAVE THE DATE: Directory pictures will be on **Sunday, August 30th** and **Sept 20th** @ 10:00 am & 4:00 pm.

SAVE THE DATE: The Great Outdoors Service on **Sunday, Sept. 20th**. More details coming soon!

This Week @ St. Peter

Sun July 12 9:00 am Worship
10:30 in person Adult Education,
5:00 pm Worship
Mon July 13, 5:00 pm Stewardship, 6:00 pm Church Council
Tues July 14, 6:45 pm Dads of School Kids Baseball in Victoria, 7:00 pm Prayer Group
Wed July 15
Thur July 16
Fri July 17
Sat July 18
Sun July 19, 9:00 am Worship, 10:30 Adult Education, 5:00 pm Worship,

Opening Hymn *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies* (# 553)

Words by Charles Wesley; Music by J.G. Werner

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Hymn of the Day: *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* (# 516)

Words by John Cawood; Music by J. Day

1 Almighty God, your word is cast
like seed into the ground;
now let the dew of heav'n descend
and righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not the sly satanic foe
this holy seed remove,
but give it root in ev'ry heart
to bring forth fruits of love.

3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundredfold
the fruits of peace and joy.

4 So when the precious seed is sown,
life-giving grace bestow,
that all whose souls the truth receive
its saving pow'r may know.

Closing Hymn As Rain from the Clouds (#508)

Words by Delores Dufner; Music by Jonathan E. Spilman

**1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.**

**Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.**

**We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.**

**We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.**

**2 As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.**

**Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.**

**We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.**

**We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.**

**2 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,
awaking and warming and healing our land.**

**Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.**

**We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.**

**We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.**