

Worship Texts for Sunday, June 13, 2021

Lectionary 11 Proper 6

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING SONG

I Lift My Hands

Be still there is a healer
His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy is unfailing
His arms a fortress for the weak
Let faith arise
Let faith arise

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God
Forever

Be still there is a river
That flows from Calvary's tree
A fountain for the thirsty
Your grace that washes over me
Let faith arise
Let faith arise

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God
Forever

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God
Forever

Let faith arise
Let faith arise
Open my eyes
Open my eyes
Let faith arise
Let faith arise
Open my eyes
Open my eyes

I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge
You are my strength
As I pour out my heart
These things I remember
You are faithful God
Forever

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Forever

Let faith arise
Let faith arise

WELCOME

(We stand as we are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW # 793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

SETTING 8

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Shout to the Lord

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down, and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God,

you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(We are seated as we hear God's holy word)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Ezekiel.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (*We read responsively by whole verse*)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**
³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.
⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was

raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(We stand as we are able for the reading of the gospel)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

(We stand as we are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY

On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW #550

1 On what has now been sown

your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!

- 2 To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.
- 3 Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

A: We confess our common faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**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.**

(We are seated)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition:

Leader: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer

(We stand as we are able)

Peace *(We share the blessing of Christ's peace. Some worshipers may prefer to maintain social distancing)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(We are seated)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *(We respond to God's grace as we offer our gifts to reach out in new ways)*

(We stand as the gifts are brought forward)

OFFERTORY

ONLY BY GRACE

W&P #112

Only by grace can we enter,
only by grace can we stand;
not by our human endeavor,
but by the blood of the Lamb.
Into your presence you call us,
you call us to come.
Into your presence you draw us,
and now by your grace we come,
now by your grace we come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW#473

Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words:
You are holy, God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *(We move forward to receive the sacrament as directed by the usher.)*

COMMUNION CANTICLE

LAMB OF GOD

Setting 8

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN

INSTRUMENTAL

(We stand as we are able)

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A; Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Desert Song

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer
in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith
proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me
shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror
and co-heir with Christ

So firm on His promise I'll stand

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me
shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

All of my life
In every season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship
Sing 4 times

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me
shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received
I will sow

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.