



*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's Table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

**WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.**

*Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed. [The Center for Disease Control] Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, and regrettably refrain from singing or speaking together through the service as a congregation.*

## **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**

**570-385-2657 \* [www.jerusalemmlutheran.com](http://www.jerusalemmlutheran.com)**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## **GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE**

*It is Well with My Soul*  
**Handbells, Beverly Kriner**

**arr. Christine Anderson**

*The bell rings calling us to worship.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

*What Is This Place*

**# 524**

1 What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.

Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
windows for light, an open door.  
Yet it becomes a body that lives  
when we are gathered here,  
and know our God is near.

- 2 Words from afar, stars that are falling,  
sparks that are sown in us like seed:  
names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders  
sent from the past are all we need.  
We in this place remember and speak  
again what we have heard:  
God's free redeeming word.
- 3 And we accept bread at this table,  
broken and shared, a living sign.  
Here in this world, dying and living,  
we are each other's bread and wine.  
This is the place where we can receive  
what we need to increase:  
our justice and God's peace.

*Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933*

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## **GREETING**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

## **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.**

## **READING FROM THE CHURCH'S SCRIPTURES**

**Isaiah 55:10-13**

*The assembly is seated.*

- <sup>10</sup>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,  
<sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

*The assembly stands for the gospel.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>But 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 FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

### **SERMON**

**Pastor David Rowe**

*The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

# 516

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

- 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.

*Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.*

## APOSTLES CREED

*We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.*

**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**

*As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.*

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith to share the gospel of your Kingdom in our daily lives with our neighbors both near and far. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise, and yet your creation has been deeply wounded by the coronavirus. We pray for scientists, leaders, and medical professionals who seek to bring healing to your creation and your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and mercy. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms of race and class that divide us, and guide political leaders toward a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, care for all who are in need. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide assurance. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. For those who are sick, bring comfort and healing. All these we raise in prayer before you now... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries of worship and learning, and service and witness, and deepen our congregation's relationship with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

*The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.*

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

*We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BLESSING**

*The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,

nor things present, nor things to come,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ,

and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,

bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

# 547

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

*Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.*

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## DISMISSAL

*The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## *Trumpet Tune*

**John Stanley**

## OFFERING

*You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave.*

*If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.*

*To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.*



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## **MINISTRY NEWS**

### **PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Denny Starr, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Ron Gill, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Sherry and Kim Zulick, Katharine Macnutt

### **Those with Long-term health issues:**

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Bill Gordon, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefich, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Kay LeBoeuf, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson

### **Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

**THE BULLETINS** are in memory of my parents, John and Reta Rhodes, by daughter, Samantha.

**THANK YOU TO today's cantors:** 8:00am – Beverly & Philip Kriner and 10:30am – Krista Sausser.

**GATHERING AGAIN FOR WORSHIP IS WONDERFUL!** And yet regrettably we have had to make changes in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Drawing from governmental guidelines,

and Lutheran and ecumenical worship recommendations, our congregational leaders have developed health expectations for when we gather (Lk. 10:25-37 & 1 Cor. 12:12–13;13). Meanwhile these simpler services to which we return continue to center on both the Risen Christ's promise to be present whenever two or more are gathered in his name (Mt. 18:20), and the hearing of the faith creating and discipleship forming gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:17). Notably absent from our worship is singing by the congregation, choir, or praise team, because the act of singing has the potential to spread the virus both in great quantity and distance, even with masks. For the same reason, following church wide guidelines, we are not yet speaking congregational responses. Although some other congregations may use different practices, please know that we are following widely accepted health recommendations, and worship practices that we feel best reflect Lutheran theology and liturgy.

**COUNTERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>** are Lou Messina, Melissa Boyer, and Janet Sattizahn.

**COUNTERS CHECK YOUR SCHEDULES**, please start reporting into the office to count offerings on Monday mornings about 9:15 am. Any questions, contact Jill McCloy.

**JERUSALEM'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TOTAL** has reached \$191,275.53. Thank you!

**LAST CALL FOR PHOTOS.** The 2020 Jerusalem Church Directory will be printed with pictures and available to be picked up at church starting Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Please send in your photos to [mail@jerusalemlutheran.com](mailto:mail@jerusalemlutheran.com). Thanks!

**HOLY COMMUNION** will not yet be offered even though many of us hunger for its sacramental promise and Christ's presence. In this matter there are a variety of understandings and practices throughout the church, and even in the Lutheran Church, but we are listening to both the counsel of our bishop and the recommendations of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. At the present time we are not offering the Lord's Supper because although some of the concerns about distancing, masking and unmasking, and the distribution of Communion can be addressed, a Lutheran consensus has not yet emerged about how to celebrate the Lord's Supper safely and with theological integrity. When we do begin offering the Eucharist again, we will also need to find ways to extend the Lord's Table to include the larger number of people who are staying at home due to their vulnerability.

**VIDEOS OF WORSHIP** will be recorded each Sunday, and then uploaded to YouTube and our website ([jerusalemlutheran.com](http://jerusalemlutheran.com)) to be available Monday afternoon. The recording posted on the internet, and the bulletin and sermon mailed to those who do not have computer access, will continue so that the additional people who have health conditions and therefore should not gather with us for worship, are included in our weekly worship.

**OUR CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE**, the Worship and Music Committee, and the Church Council, have been studying, discussing and prayerfully discerning many documents and guidelines over the past several months. If you have any questions, please talk to them. The Task Force includes Deb Reed (council president), Donald Boyer (a retired school superintendent), Jane Mahoney (a retired nurse with experience in infection control), and Pastor

Rowe. Please thank them for their hard work (often meeting weekly by video conference), and continue to pray for them.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE FEWER, YET STILL IMPORTANT!** Instead of usher and greeters, we are using a handful of guides who have been trained in the safer practices that we have developed for gathering. In addition, assisting ministers will serve as lectors to maintain distance in the chancel and avoid sharing the same surfaces that cannot be disinfected between people. We may tweak these practices in the weeks ahead, and then we will invite more people to be oriented and serve as guides and assisting ministers. Please see Jane Mahoney if you are interested. Also, please see Audrey Christ if you would like to be a cantor.

**SOUND BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** We are currently looking for volunteers to run the sound board. Please contact Melissa Boyer if interested 570-789-1813.

**PASTORAL VISITATION** has had to change in this time of pandemic, even as we move forward. Consider this sobering recommendation from an ecumenical document developed by medical and pastoral leaders of the Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Lutheran Church: “Until the threat posed by COVID-19 is truly gone, we do not commend resuming pastoral caregiving visits inside homes, hospitals, or nursing care centers except for very brief times and only when most necessary, such as near death. [Care-Filled... Life, p. 32].” Therefore, for mutual protection, with the support of our Church Council Pastor Rowe will not be visiting unless the need is dire. Phone calls will need to be used instead, and all of us will need to share in the mutual care for one another, especially those most vulnerable and close to us. Please feel free to call Pastor Rowe at 570-933-5511.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.** Due to COVID-19, we will hand out Vacation Bible School packets through a Drive-Thru format. The packs will include materials for crafts, snacks, and bible stories. We will also be uploading interactive bible stories and songs through our website ([jerusalemlutheran.com](http://jerusalemlutheran.com)). Please register for a VBS packet by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044da5ac2aaafa7-vbs>. Pickup will be Friday, July 24th, from 6-7 pm at the front entrance to the church.

**CHILD CARE UPDATE.** Happy Summer everyone!! JCCC is open again as of June 1. It has been a very gradual reopening. As the month of June has gone by, our enrollment numbers are gradually increasing. We are doing our very best to meet the needs of our families, and are using the CDC guidelines to keep everyone healthy and safe. Our summer will look a little different as we will not be taking field trips or doing swim lessons. There is the possibility of the Haven pool opening and we have permission to use the school district playground, softball field and picnic areas. We will be spending a lot of time outdoors as usual. A few preschool and older toddler slots are still available. We are looking to hire summer substitutes and full time in the fall. Stop by to see Mrs. Cappel for an application. Stay safe!

**ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES!** If the Coronavirus has put stress on your marriage, you are not alone! Lutheran Marriage Encounter has scheduled a couple of Weekends this fall, and we believe that you will find that attending a Weekend will help you renew and revitalize your

marital relationship no matter whether your marriage is in great shape or if you could really use some help.

The Weekends currently scheduled are: September 18-20 at the Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster PA and

October 16-18 at the Olmsted Retreat in Ludlow, PA, an hour north of Pittsburgh. For more information, please see Joanne & Lloyd Wertz.

### ***EMERGENCY NUMBERS:***

For imminent danger call 911.

For crisis or mental health help call 877-9wehelp

Schuylkill Women in Crisis 570-622-6220

Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-932-0313

Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255

Addiction 1-800-264-1290

### **STAFF AND LEADERS**

Rev. David Rowe, *Pastor*: 610-987-9798(H), 570-933-5511 (C), [pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com](mailto:pastorrowe@jerusalemlutheran.com)

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Tanya Cartwright, *Director of Faith & Families Ministries*: [faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com](mailto:faithandfamilies@jerusalemlutheran.com)

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