

6th Sunday After Pentecost, July 12, 2020
Commissioning of Call Committee and Offering of Ministry Site Profile
Zoom Service 10:30 AM
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A And also with you!

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

A Amen.

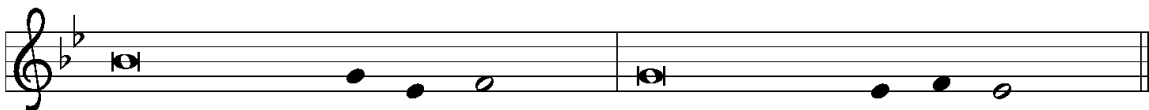
Reading from the Old Testament, Isaiah 55:10-13

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.

Psalm 65: 1-13



¹You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who | answers prayer,
to you all | flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are strong- | er than we are,
but you blot out | our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains | by your power;
you are girded a- | bout with might.**

⁷You still the roaring | of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.**

⁹You 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.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- | selves with grain;

let them shout for | joy and sing.

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

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."

Sermon

HYMN: Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil, ELW 512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Commissioning of Call Committee and Prayers of the People

Friends in Christ at Immanuel, God has called you to a new day! As you commission your call committee, you take a next step in a time of reflection and prayer for discerning the call and mission of this congregation. You prepare for a new pastor in a spirit of dreaming, venturing, listening, hoping and expecting. We pray God's blessing on the call committee, the congregation and the candidates who will discern this call to live among you.

A reading from First Corinthians:

There are different gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. Each one is given a gift by the Spirit to be used for the common good.

We bring before God's presence the members of the call committee appointed by the council. As their names are called, we pause, invite them to offer a sign of greeting and find a way to affirm each of them.

Let us now commission and pray for Tom Couch... Chris Djuric... Anne Heider...Tyler Heyl... Michael Kloster.... and Lisa Larson, elected by this committee to serve as its Chair.

Dear friends, you have been appointed to serve in leading our congregation in the pastor call process. You do not undertake this responsibility alone, but in the power of the Spirit's leading, in the prayerful support and encouragement of the members of Immanuel, and with the assistance of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA.

Will you be open to the Spirit, careful in your listening, purposeful in your questioning, and respectful in all that you do to bring harmony to your process, and confidentiality for candidates? If so please unmute to answer, "Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me."

Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you seek God's guidance and trust God's leading until you are brought to one mind and will in Christ in presenting a pastoral candidate? If so answer, "Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me."

Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Let us pray for the work of this call committee:

Gracious God, we give thanks for the gifts and baptismal calling of these siblings in Christ. Lead them with the power of your Holy Spirit showered upon us. Lead them through holy conversations with the eyes of their hearts enlightened. May their hope, insight, wisdom, passion and trust be in you.

Reforming Spirit of God,

Receive our Prayer

Friends in Christ, we are in this together. Let us now consider and pray for the roles that all of us at Immanuel are called to in this time of transition and reformation and renewal of our congregation's life and leadership.

People of Immanuel, will you give yourself even now to the reformation and renewal of this congregation's inner spirit, to its call to mission and growth, with your offerings, your time, service and prayer; through invitations to our neighbors and friends, and through trust in God? If so please unmute yourselves and answer, "We will, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

Will you pray for the call committee and respect their need to work in confidentiality for the sake of the candidates and their congregations, and for the sake of harmony in the committee? If so answer, "We will, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We will and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray for the congregation in this time of transition:

Shepherding God, help us to be about your work right now, even as the search for a pastor begins. Keep us faithful in mission, regular in worship, responsible in stewardship, and mindful of the needs of those around us. Give us holy patience, a patience that trusts in you for our present care, knowing you will bring our good work to fulfillment in your time, and knowing that none of us is alone in this discernment.

May the Holy Spirit rest in and among each of us. May we be courageous and articulate in sharing with one another our hopes and dreams for our life together here and in the community. May we be good listeners and charitable interpreters of one another's contributions. May we be so moved to offer words of encouragement and prayerful support to our call committee, and an understanding of their need for confidentiality and time for deliberation. We turn to you to lead and guide us in all things.

Reforming Spirit of God,

Receive our Prayer

We give ourselves to anticipation of what God has in store for us, through those will be our pastoral candidates. We give thanks for our synod staff who will be discerning with us.

Let us pray for the one known to God who will be called here as pastor:

Holy God, we have some months of discernment and waiting yet ahead of us. But even so you have in mind with us through your Spirit, the ones who might lead us, change us, and grow with us. As you have raised up faithful servants of your Word to tend your flock in every time

and place, send now we pray, a faithful shepherd to lead this flock. Be stirring up in our pastoral candidates a goodness and grace, a strength and a faith, a desire to preach and teach, to wash and feed, to visit and console, to inspire and challenge, to guide and pray for these your people. Give them a gladness of heart open to discernment with us. Work in and through partners in ministry on the synod staff as these candidates are brought forward in response to a calling into the mission and ministry of this congregation and its neighborhood.

Reforming Spirit of God,

Receive our Prayer

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and all people according to their need.

Gracious God, you know the needs of your people.

Bless all who worship in various forms all over the globe this week, in efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus, and to put an end to the spread of hatred and fear, and economic and bodily violence, in our nations and communities. We pray for our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, Pastor Kim, our president Scott, our reopening team, and council. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Inspire health care workers and medical researchers as they work on our behalf. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Bring meaningful work to those who are furloughed and assist the unemployed in finding a job. Help us all work together for the common good. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Be with those we place in your hands in any need, especially Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Sonny Griffin, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Ernie LeVon, Rowan Lopes, Sara Mauk, Annette, Peter, and Benjamin Mauk-O'Connor, Elaine Nelson, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, and those we name now, muted or un-muted:

(longer pause)

And for what else, siblings in Christ, do we pray or give thanks for today:

(longer pause)

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our Prayer.

Lord, receive these prayers as the season of pastoral discernment begins and this call committee is commissioned, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Corporate sign of acclamation!)

Peace

Offertory: Thanksgiving for Transition Team and Offering of our Vision for Ministry

Today in our offering time, we also bring to God's altar the work of the transition team in developing our Ministry Site Profile. The Ministry Site Profile is our faithful reflection of God's call specifically to Immanuel to grow in faith, life and outreach. We give thanks for these members who have worked with you in materializing this expression of God's call to us.

We lift up, as they greet us: Linda Edlund, chair... Dana Barron... Tom Couch... Greg Hummel... Michael Kloster... Laura McDaniel... Audrey Moy... Nicolai Schousboe... Charly Yarnoff... Steve Warner.

We give thanks for these leaders at the conclusion of this work.

(corporate sign of thanksgiving!)

We send this vision for mission and ministry to the synod office for approval and release to the wider church in our call process. We ask God's blessing on this and all our offerings.

Let us pray:

We give thanks, O God, for your many gifts and for calling us to be your people and your church at Immanuel. May we be faithful to your dreams and mission in all our work and lives. Bless the gifts that we've brought to you this week, and especially this site profile. May this vision of our ministry speak to candidates, and to all, of the vibrancy of the life into which you have called us to be light to the world. Help us to trust in your presence and goodness, and bless our seed sowing while we wait. And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.

Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

For 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.
For this we pray: **Amen! 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.
For this we pray: **Amen! 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

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

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

The eyes of all wait upon you, O God, and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.

For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

Table Dismissal and Benediction

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may God, creator, redeemer and sustainer, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Coffee hour/chat