



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Confirmation/Communion Worship

July 16th, 2023

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers' response, and '*' means please stand as able.*

BELL & PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME AND MUTUAL MINISTRY MESSAGES

GATHERING

- * CONFESSION Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. *Pause for reflection.* Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt others and hurt what you've created. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**
- * FORGIVENESS God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
- * GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

* GATHERING HYMN "Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (sung 2 times)

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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* PRAYER OF THE DAY The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

GROWING

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear. Now hear for yourself the Good News according to the Gospel of Matthew **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!" ¹⁰Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. (Then Jesus explained to them) 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.**

Our Confirmands will now share their faith statements.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM of our Confirmation students

KEITH: Brayden Zillmer, Marcus Folczyk, Dru Schiszik, Waylon Topper, and Logan Osborne have been instructed in the Christian faith and desires to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

PASTOR: We rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of his Church. Throughout your life, this, and perhaps other communities of God's people, have helped you to hear and understand the God's living word, the Bible. They have sought to help you understand God's loving purpose for your life. You have been fed at his holy table, and called to be a witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Brayden, Marcus, Dru, Waylon and Logan, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you reject the devil and all the forces that defy God? If so say together, "I reject them."

STUDENTS: I reject them.

Do you reject the powers of this world that rebel against God? If so say together, "I reject them."

STUDENTS: I reject them.

Do you reject the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so say together, "I reject them."

STUDENTS: I reject them.

* P: (*to congregation*) please stand, and as a body of Christ, let us join with these siblings in Christ, in professing our faith by answering these questions:

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: 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 into hell. 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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

*P: (*Addressed to students*) You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the promise God made with you in Holy Baptism, promises previously made by your parents and godparent: to live among God's faithful people - to hear his Word and share in his supper - to proclaim the Good News of Jesus through your words, actions, and attitudes, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus - and to work for justice and peace in all the earth? If so, *respond individually* by saying, "I do, and ask God to help and guide me.

ONE AT A TIME: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

(Congregation may be seated as the students kneels at communion rail...and parents/family members come forward and place their hands on them, or family members nearby)

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these young men your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: **All: Amen**

LAYING ON OF HANDS P: Stir up in (Name) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **INDIVIDUALLY: Amen**

(All the students stand and face the congregation)

P: People of God, do you promise to support these siblings in Christ and pray for them in their Christian life? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let's congratulate them all with a round of applause!! Students and family members may be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY *For the Fruit of All Creation (see next page)*



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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NOTE: The Offering Plate is located at the entrance to the sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill. You can mail your offering to 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739

*** OFFERING PRAYER** Living God who continues to create, **you are the giver of all life, and we thank you. Nurture the Christian faith of these young men, their families, and all believers, by infusing in us a sure understanding of who we believe in, what we believe and why it matters. Assist us in caring for all people and things you have created, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*** 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**

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS /BLESSING The May the Lord walk *beside* you to comfort you. May the Lord walk *above* you to watch over you. May the Lord walk *behind* you to keep you safe. May the Lord walk *before* you to show you the way. In the name of the Father, ✚ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

* 261 SENDING HYMN *On What Has Now Been Sown* Page 6
(*Newly confirmed members exit into the Gathering Place to form a receiving line.*)

* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Sow seeds of faith and share in the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

BELLS/POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

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THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	10am	- 7th Sun. after Pentecost Confirmation Communion Worship
MONDAY	7pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	4-6pm	- Food Pantry
FRIDAY:	10am-Noon	- Food Pantry
	6pm	- Eckwright-Bell Wedding Rehearsal
SATURDAY:	3:30pm	- Eckwright-Bell Wedding Ceremony
SUNDAY:	10am	- 8 th Sunday after Pentecost Worship with Baptism
MONDAY:	6:30pm	- Church Council Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR ICE CREAM SOCIAL SEASON Thurs. **Aug. 10th 4-7pm** Free will offering for LOTS of delicious food and beverages.

VBS...SPORTS CAMP Don't forget to put these dates (7/30 to 8/3) on your calendar too...and have the kids invite a friend or 2!! Contact Jaime (715-821-0796) or Holly (715-456-6960).

SUN. July 30th 10am Farewell/Communion Worship, followed by Retirement Celebration for Pastor Mary at 11am. Come and join in the morning and enjoy the sweet treats afterwards.

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On What Has Now Been Sown

1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing Lord, be - stow; the
 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
 cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
 meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
 Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
 you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
 Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

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