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Grace Lutheran Church

6810 Winnetka Avenue North • Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Phone: 763-533-4411 • Fax: 763-533-4434

Secretary's E-mail: grace@gracelcms.org • Website: www.gracelcms.org

Pastor Vance Milbrath • E-mail prmilbrath@gracelcms.org • Phone: 763-567-9635

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

**SO SHALL MY WORD
BE**

It Shall Not Return To Me Empty



It Shall Accomplish...

...And Shall Succeed

ISAIAH 55:11

Preparing for Divine Service

As you prepare for God's action in your life today, set aside the busy-ness and distractions of your everyday routine. We invite you to

- in your Bible or Hymnal, read through today's appointed psalm: **PSALM 65: (1-8) 9-13**
- Review today's Scripture readings in the bulletin
- Focus on the Lord in prayer. Sample prayers are on the inside front cover of the hymnal, or feel free to use our usual pre-service prayer:

Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

*Please feel free to participate further in this modified service
by reading aloud the lines in bold marked for congregational participation*

Invocation

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

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P In the Old Testament Reading, God promises, "My word . . . shall not return to Me empty; it shall accomplish . . . and shall succeed."
C **But we are not faithful to trust You in all things. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, heavenly Father.**

- P Then God tells us, "You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace."
C **But we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Hear us, free us, and lead us in paths pleasing to You, heavenly Father.**

Declaration of Grace

- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

- C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, who has given us this good earth in which to live and who sends rain and sun to cause plants to produce fruit and grain for harvest,

C **continue to send Your life-giving Word to us so that we resist the cares of this world and return to You a harvest of new sons and daughters,**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10–13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, 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 make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Catechism

Explanation of the Third Article

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn	“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”	LSB 591
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Sermon

“Very Busy Water”

Isaiah 55:10–13

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

Closing Collect

- P All thanks to You, almighty God, for graciously sending Your Word into our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit.
- C **Cause us to keep growing in your grace and to produce a bountiful harvest to the glory of Your holy name;**
- P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**
- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn	“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”	LSB 923
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Sending

- P Go in Peace; serve the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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