

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500

durhamlutheran.org

Lay Worship Leader – Linda Sauter

July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



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.

You can find the live stream at the following locations:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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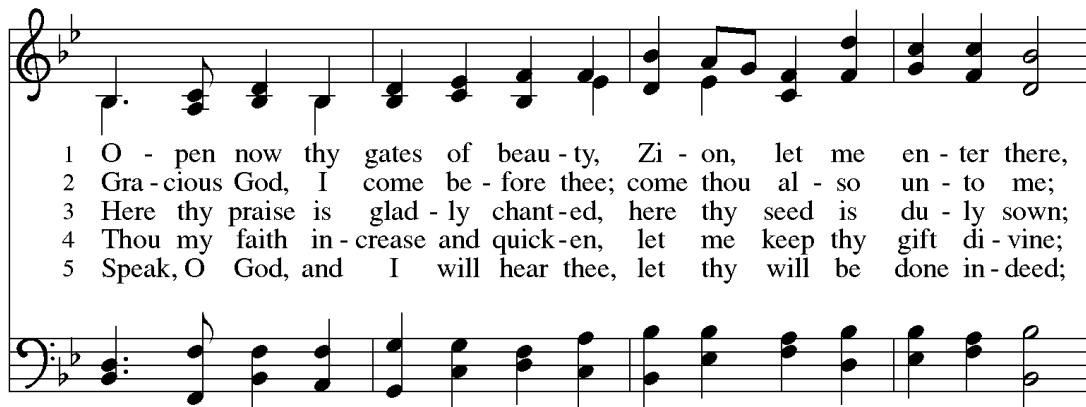
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Prelude: All good Gifts - Stephen Schwartz

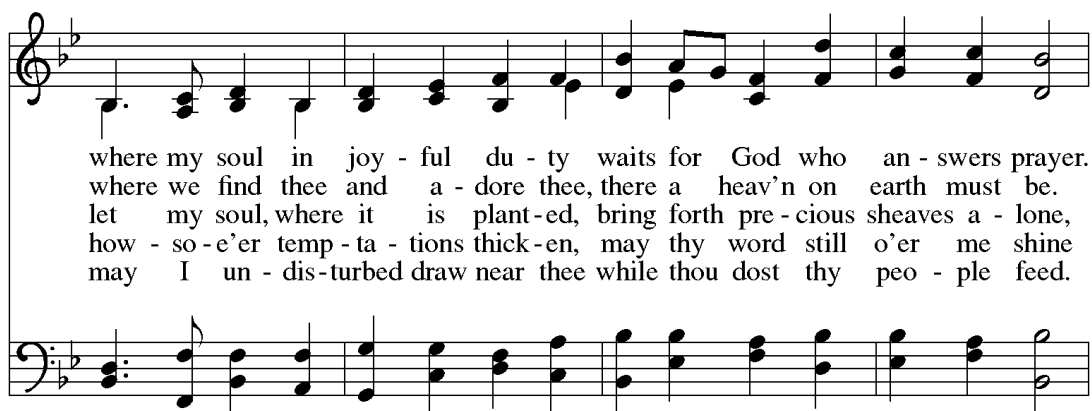
Welcome

Gathering Hymn: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ELW 533

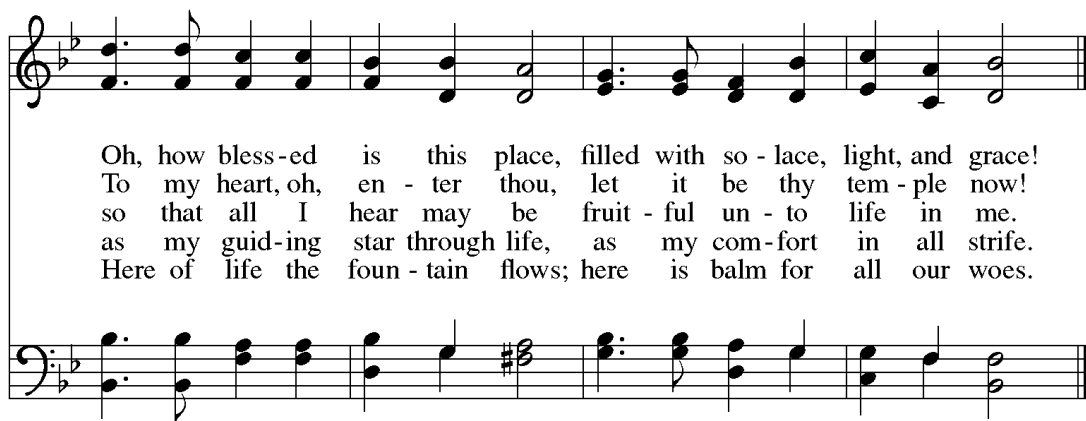
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

GREETING (Please stand if you are able)

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

C: And also with you.

W: You are the treasured people of the LORD,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

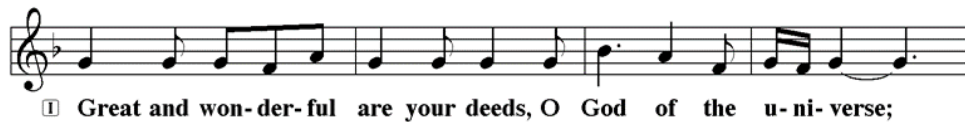
W: Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and
when you rise.**

W: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

SCRIPTURE SONG



Prayer of the Day:

L: 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.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation is seated after the prayer)

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

L: A reading from Isaiah

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Psalm: Psalm 65: 9-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

L: 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.

C: ¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth ¹ out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

L: ¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

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

L: ¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

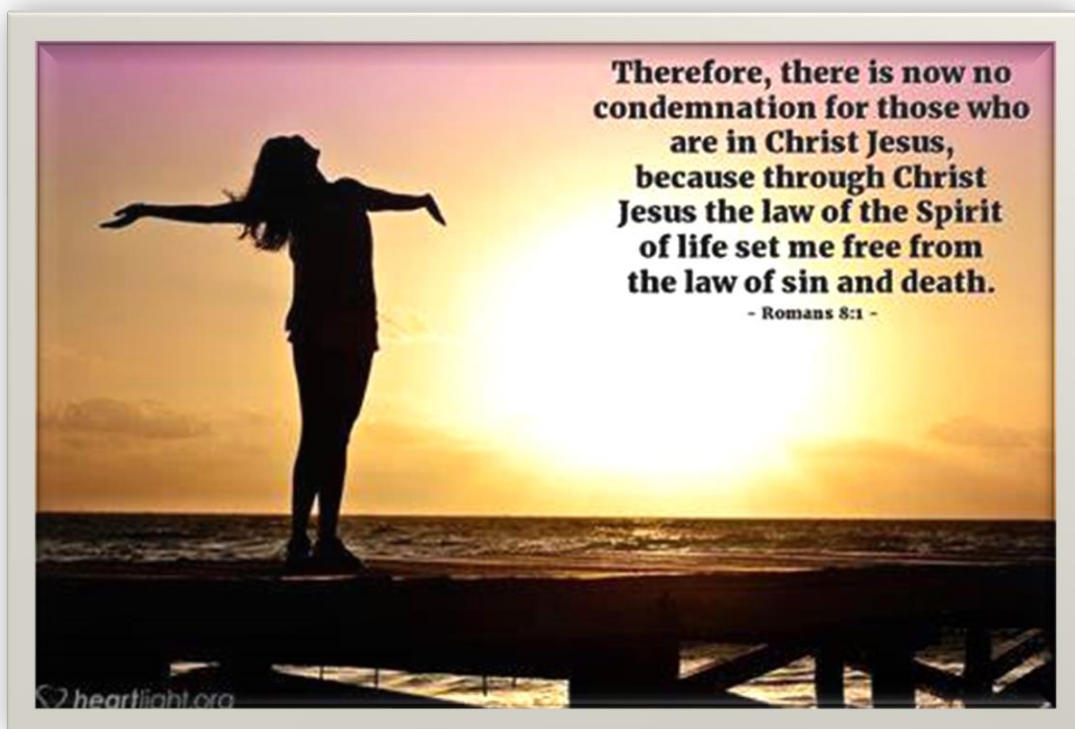
There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD.



Gospel Acclamation (Please stand if you are able)



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

The Gospel – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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.

W: The Gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

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!"

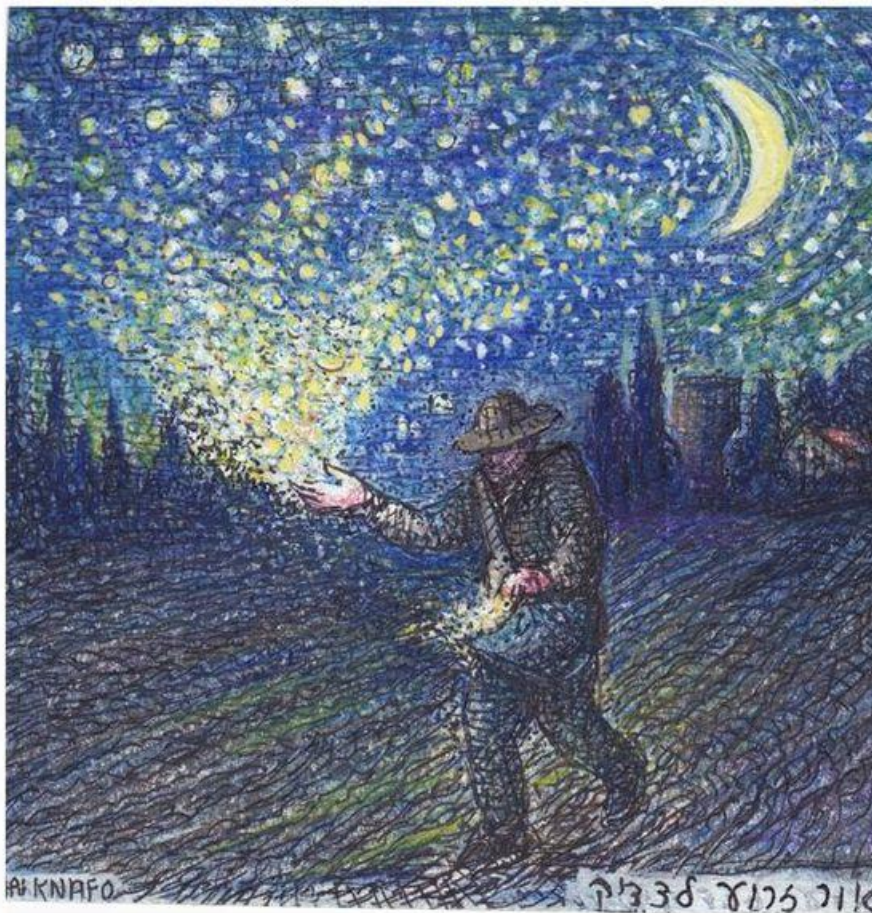
¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately 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.”

W: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you. O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON



For the Fruit of All Creation

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; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

W: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

W: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

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.

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.

W: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

W: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

W: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

W: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

W: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

W: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

W: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil ELW 512

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' which is then changed to 4/4. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

W: Let us pray.

C: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

W: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

W: Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Hear our prayer.

W: Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

C: Hear our prayer.

W: Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

C: Hear our prayer.

W: Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

C: Hear our prayer.

W: Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

W: Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

C: Hear our prayer.

W: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

W: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

W: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.



Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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Postlude:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

July	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
16	Kristy-Lee Reiman		
19	Joe Erceg		
		Beth & Luke Snyder (9)	
21	Benjamin T. Naska	Serena & Brian Ashmore (33)	Ben T. Naska
22		Cleo & Ken Eck (62)	Dorothy Peterman

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Sunday, July 16	9:30 AM After Worship	Worship - Linda Sauter Lemonade on the Lawn.
Monday, July 17 - Friday July 21	6:30 -8:30 PM	Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School @ Trinity, Pleasant Valley
<i>Tuesday, July 18</i>		<i>August Newsletter Article Deadline</i>
Wednesday, July 19	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Church Office hours (No Pr. Jim)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, July 23	9:30 AM After Worship	Worship - Rev. Guider Lemonade on the Lawn.
Wednesday, July 26	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Office hours
Thursday, July 27	12:00PAM-3:00PM	Office hours
Sunday, July 30	9:30 AM After Worship	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman Lemonade on the Lawn.
Wednesday, August 2	10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Office hours
Thursday, August 3	12:00PM-3:00PM	Office hours



**FOOD
PANTRY**

July Outreach - Our Outreach envelopes for July and August have been designated for local Food banks. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex to donate a food basket. You can either buy the supplies or Helen Dungan can shop for you.



Reminder, If you have a pastoral care emergency while Pastor Heckman is away, call the church office at 610-346-8500 and Ken Anderson will arrange for one of the on-call pastors to assist you.



Keep in your
PRAYERS

For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Barbara Altemus; Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Helen Dungan; Frank Erceg; George Kreitz; Frank Mammana; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Ben Naska Sr.; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Sherri Breithoff; Emma Brown; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Nancy Davis; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Cindy Gilligan; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Josephine Gimelson & family; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Adler Hales; Julie Heckman; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Chelsea Marley; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sean McNulty; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Betty Kreitz; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; Lani Schlegel and Hal Taylor.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Stan Aagaard; Ollie Butler; Miriam Deal; Joann Gary; Susan Gonzales; Cecelia Kukuchka; Lani Schlegel; Don Seipt; Marilyn Seipt; Ann Valent; Erma Velehradsky

If you want to add someone to the prayer list or correct or update it, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

Helping in Worship

Lay Worship Leader	Linda Sauter
Choir Director and Organist	Carolyn Williams
Greeter(s)	Bob Starling & Maggie Fisher
Altar	Linda Sauter & Becky Praster
Acolyte	TBD
Lector	Mark Harwick
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Lemonade on the Lawn	Karen & Jim Beerer
Council Counting Team	Mark Harwick & Ken Anderson
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz