

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
 Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee.
 Amen.

As 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.”

In the Name of Jesus.

Jesus is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love!

As for MAN—his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field: for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

But the steadfast love of the Spirit of Jesus is from everlasting to everlasting...

Yay?

Amen?

More, please?

Yes!!!! More!

The Word of the Gospel makes sprout and grow more....more
 WHAT? Gospel-more! What Christ has done produces fruit of

what Christ IS DOING, and will do, from everlasting to everlasting!

DESPAIR...DOES...NOT...FIT...YOU!

Dear ones: when the Gospel does NOT have it way in you, from you, DO NOT DESPAIR! THAT...IS...JUST:

As the Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther teaches: the devil, the world, our sinful flesh.

In word: if the Gospel of pardon for certain does not sprout and grow in ME, in YOU...that's just ME! And YOU! But then, there's Him!

'There'll be NO SAD FACES AT CHRISTMAS!'

'OK...I'm having fun....I think....don't yell anymore, please!'

Is there another way to take away all that's sad?

Brother Charlie should really be chatting with us all today, instead of Pastor 'plant-killer.' But, brother Charlie, I think I'm starting to get the care of God's living greenery. It goes like this, right?

You put the seed or thing to grow into well turned, fertilized and watered soil; then wait a bit; and then, ifwhen the plant does not start bursting with goodness, you anchor one hand against sumpin' solid, grasp what bit of the plant you can with your other paw, and pull with vigor to make it GROW!!!! Grow, you! Snarling helps too, I believe.

Not even I am ign'ant enough to treat a plant that way. Plenty, though—plenty ign'ant enough to treat people that way. Law-way, demand-way, impatience-way, force-way, Monarch and Tyrant and Dictator-way: king-way, as are all kings.

But one. The One Who was hailed as King, like this:

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,^[d] and they gathered the whole battalion^[e] before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

When all things seem against us to drive us to despair,
We know one Gate is open, one Ear will hear our prayer!

My dear ones: Heaven has NOTHING better to do today than to hear your prayer! There is NOTHING—on the side of God!—nothing to make us give up that certain, expectant hope! A new king now has authority; all of it; MEAN-ING: even for you and me; ESPECIALLY for you and me!

So the little bit of water and one part of a sentence—In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: be clean!—hard-scrabble folk? Bounces right off them. Beat up and overturned folk: sinks in. And heaven looks for more and more and more: of Him!

The Son of Mary is SUCH a King—un-dreamt-of!—that His authority can come through the Word of a plant-killing, man-killing, hope-killing—from ME! So that when I ABSOLVE you, that is truly meant and given from the Holy Spirit as you sure ground of faith and life.

And...and...and...

Even though WE keep DEMANDING and trying to YANK out of the next man, what Jesus only GIVES—rightness, decency, love—He loves us and gives us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink. HOW He answers the faith, the hope, the prayer of, ‘I...NEED...MORE!’

A child of God mocked me one day: ‘You are wasting your abilities, your life. You read a book other people wrote, and say things that other people have said, without anything coming from you!’

Can’t get much CLOSER to the Kingdom of God!

I will bid you health and wholeness, skipping, singing, laughing soundness of body and soul and spirit as you leave the Lord’s Table this day. So, when I tell you that from Heaven’s side, you and God are at peace, that’s peace for certain in the Name of Jesus.