

July 12, 2020 – Sixth Sunday in Pentecost



Our Parish Administrator will be out of the office this coming week, July 14-16. Jenny will return to the office on July 21.

Tune in daily (except Sunday) for Pastor May's 11 a.m. broadcasts on Facebook Live! These sessions are recorded for replay and can be found on both our Facebook and YouTube pages.



The Social Ministry committee continues to collect donations of non-perishables for the Flemington Food Pantry. Donations can be left in the CEB entryway.



In-person Holy Communion services will continue to be offered at both the church at CEB on Sunday mornings. Please sign up via the link sent by email from the Parish Office, or by calling 908-439-2040.



Please continue to support the ministries of Zion with your offerings and prayers. Financial contributions can be mailed to the Parish Office at P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.



Need a new copy of the bible while you are staying at home? Please pick one up in the entryway of the CEB, which is always unlocked.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading: 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.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

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.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 13-23

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."

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to pray for all who are working essential jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those who are in direct contact with infected patients.

Members

- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Betty Lanka**, *who has returned home from Eastern Star and is continuing physical therapy.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing OT and PT while recovering from kidney stone surgery.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*
- + **Anita Zarate**, *who is recovering from back surgery.*
- + **Paul Zerfas**, *who received a stem cell transplant to combat his multiple myeloma.*

Friends and Family

- + **Carl Evans**, *friend of Arlene Martin, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer which has spread to a tumor on his pelvis.*
- + **Bill Gibbs**, *relative of the Formalarie family, who has ALS.*
- + **Nathaniel Gilmartin**, *grandson of Steve & Margaret Griggs, who is thriving at home but still has health issues that will be of concern for a long time. Continued prayers are requested for eventual successful resolution of these ongoing challenges.*
- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering at home from a stroke and remains unable to communicate.*
- + **Jeff**, *friend of Bill & Eleanor Kover, who is in critical condition following a car accident.*
- + **Jeff**, *brother-in-law of Robbin Lamo, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.*
- + **Nancy Kastrup**, *friend of John & Kathy Rustwick, who is recovering from a second surgery to remove a brain tumor.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is hospitalized.*
- + **Martin Simon**, *friend of the Kunkel and Wintemute families, who suffered a stroke and is recovering at home with ongoing issues.*
- + **Mary Ann Wilmoth**, *relative of Judy Formalarie, who has been diagnosed with Lymphoma.*

Those in the Armed Services

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Heidi Kunkel, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested prayer for military members:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.