

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 9th, 2023
9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. We struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† **Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.

**In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

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.**

† Gathering Hymn: Day by Day - ELW 790

- 1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.
- 2 Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.
- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,

I will reach at last the promised land.

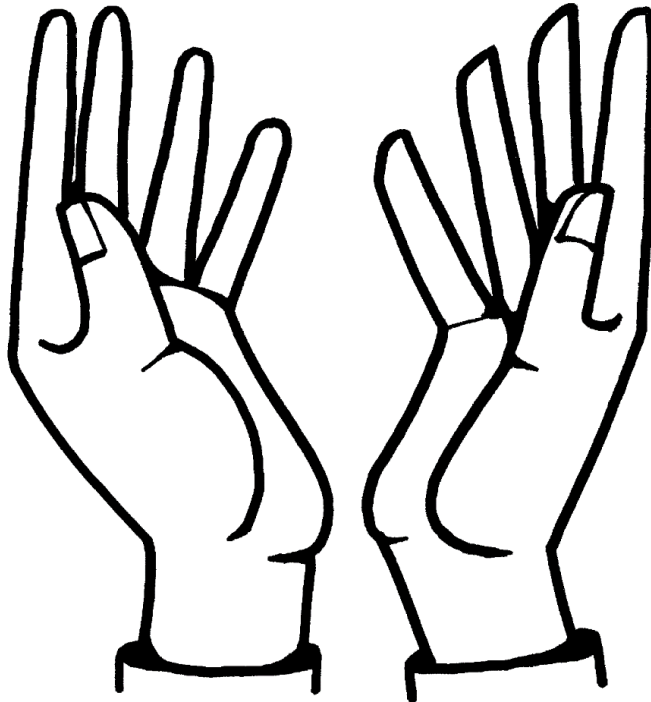
Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005

Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

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



† Kyrie (v. 1, 2, 4)

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

To put this reading into context:

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Hear now the reading.

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹⁸Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD;

our king to the Holy One of Israel.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation



Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptizer. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Rev. Julianne Smith, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Vitality / Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northeastern Ohio Synod

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

“What does Jesus want done?” This is the question the sermon invites us to ask ourselves in daily situations we encounter. This question is similar to the prayerful practice of The Examen. Review the sermon handouts on The Examen and consider adding this as a devotional practice as you reflect on the day before going to bed.

† **Hymn of the Day: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling - ELW 608**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? Refrain

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. Refrain

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Installation of Council Members

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our*

† **Prayers of Intercession**

community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

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.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need, especially Peter, Helen, Andrew, Mary, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Make your presence known among all who suffer. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build

up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter.
Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



*The offering is
brought
forward to the
altar to signify
our gratitude
for God's
blessings.*

† Offering Hymn: We Are an Offering ELW 692

We lift our voices,
we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to You;
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices,
Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours;
we are an offering.

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

† Offering Prayer

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.

† Great Thanksgiving

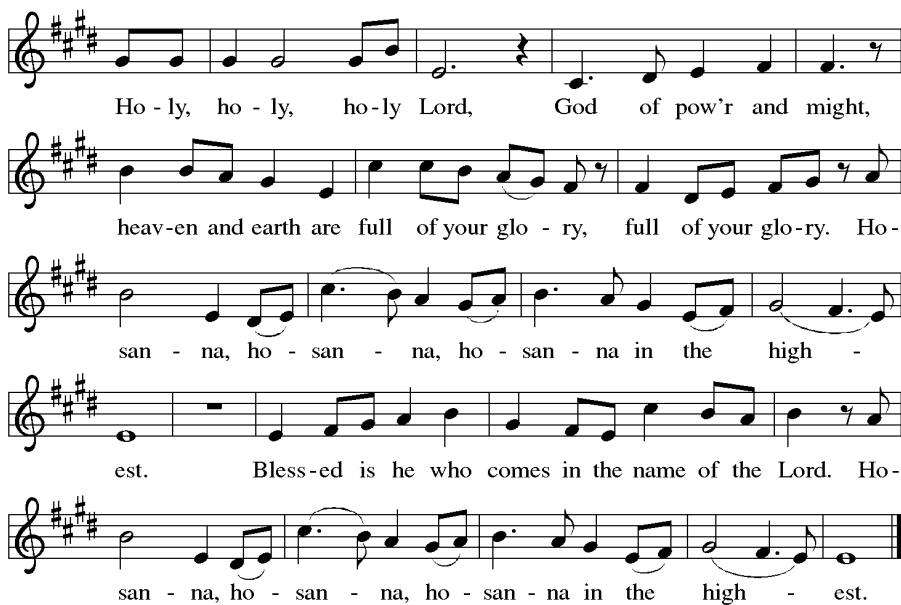
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

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.

† Invitation to the Table

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

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Give Me Jesus - ELW 770

1 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.

Refrain

Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.

2 Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

3 Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

4 Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

5 And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

† **Post-Communion Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† **Blessing**

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. **Amen.**

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† **Sending Hymn: Just a Closer Walk with Thee - ELW 697 (v. 1, 3)**

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. **Refrain**

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. **Refrain**

Text: North American traditional

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

Go in peace as the people of Good Soil:
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve!

Postlude

Coffee Hour is currently paused for the summer.

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Trey Harrison	Reader: JoAnne Wancata
Ushers: Sharon Hollowell Amanda Inman	Counters: Becky Williamson Michael Wancata
Online Usher: Alex Alusheff	Acolyte: Jack Johnson



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, July 9th, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Andrew Evatt, Mary Hanson, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Diane Bennett (July 11th)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:

Henry Smith (July 10th), Jeanne Livingood (July 11th)

Suburban Cooperative Nursery School is currently enrolling for the Fall. There are openings for both three- and four-year-olds for the upcoming school year. For more information, please call 440-331-9929, email suburbancoop@gmail.com, or visit the website at <http://www.suburbancooperative.com>.

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

- 1) New Covenant (1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland) - on the fourth Saturday from 8am-12pm, through August. *Please bring in extra plastic bags to help support this ministry or place in the bin in the upstairs hallway.* Upcoming dates: July 22, August 26
- 2) Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) - on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm, through November. Upcoming dates: July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jul 9	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Tues, Jul 11	GS Executive Team Mtg	7:30 pm
Sun, Jul 16	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Tues, Jul 18	GS Executive Team Mtg	7:30 pm
Sun, Jul 30	Memorial Service for Max Bechtel	3:00 pm

Summer Family Movie and Camp Fire Night August 12th Join your siblings in Christ for a family-friendly night of movies and pizza on Saturday, 8/12 at 5:00 pm. There will be a campfire and ingredients to make s'mores in addition to pizza and lemonade. Bring yourself, a comfy chair or blankets. Event is rain or shine, camp fire is weather permitting. Let us know how many are attending and what food/supplies you can bring by signing up on the sheet on the bulletin board or contacting the church office. Any questions? Contact Adam Pate (419-606-3373) or Jennifer Krankowski (216-372-0012).