



OF THE LAND AND SEASONS
Service of the Word
Lower Susquehanna Synod
Spring 2021

Worship Leaders

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MUSICIANS Beth Bergeron Folkemer, *guitar and vocals*
Joel Folkemer, *bass and vocals*
Stephen P. Folkemer, *piano, vocals, and squeezebox*
Margaret Folkemer Leonard, *penny whistle and vocals*

Of the Land and Seasons

“Of the Land and Seasons” is a setting of Holy Communion intended for quarterly use. It celebrates the cycle of agricultural seasons, and uses the activities of each season on farm, orchard, and ranch as images of God’s action and our response. The music collected and composed for this service is drawn from the traditions of Northern Appalachian folksongs, with their roots in the songs of African-Americans and the British Isles.

For spring, the themes include the preparation of the soil, waiting in hope, the struggle of new birth, planting, germination, and pollination. These images appear not only in the readings chosen for this season, but also in the confessional prayer and the Thanksgiving for the Word.

While the service, published by Augsburg Fortress, is a setting of Holy Communion, this service has been arranged to be used as a Service of the Word during the time of distancing necessitated by the pandemic.

The liturgical texts are based on those of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and written by Stephen P. Folkemer who, with Beth Bergeron Folkemer, also collected and arranged the music. The texts for the hymn paraphrases which serve as liturgical music were written by Beth Bergeron Folkemer and Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. The Thanksgiving for the Word was written by Mark Oldenburg.

OF THE LAND AND SEASONS

Service of the Word for Spring



GATHERING

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Music from *Of the Land and Seasons*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought,, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have denied our need for daily new birth.

**We have scorned the means you provide
to fertilize and cultivate our growth in grace.**

**We have closed ourselves to pollination by others of your redeeming,
particularly those whose fruits differ from ours.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, revive us, and open us to your gifts,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead to sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *We Praise You For the Life that Stirs*



1 We praise you for the life that stirs when spring-time warms the
 2 We praise you for the sum - mer sun, for rip'n - ing grain and
 3 We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, for har - vest yield from
 4 We sing your praise through win - ter's night, when earth in fro - zen
 5 We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spir - it,



sleep - ing earth; but most, we praise the
 length - ened days; but most, we praise you
 spring - time seed; up - on our hearts your
 si - lence lies, for prom - ise of re -
 with the thron'g of saints and an - gels,



grace that lures our slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth,
 for the Son whose light brings heal - ing in his rays,
 grace be - stow till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed,
 turn - ing light, for life in Christ that nev - er dies,
 joined as one in grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song,



our slum - b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 whose light brings heal - ing in his rays.
 till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 for life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 in grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

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

Cantor



We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make



plow-shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly



Lord, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Lord, have



mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

Cantor



Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un -

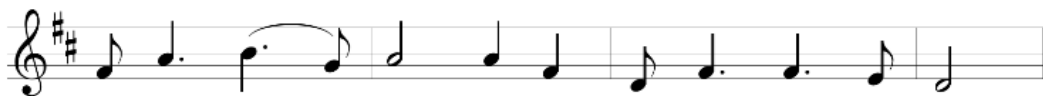


til we see your face: hear us when we cry to you.

Assembly



Christ, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, Christ, have



mer-cy on us: hear us when we cry to you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give birth to all creation. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause your word to bring forth new life in us, awaken our slumbering hearts, and enliven us with a patient and expectant hope; that we may break forth in blossom and stalk, full of the promise of fruit and grain; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 2:4b-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-25

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

O God, Whose Word Well Planted

1 O God, whose word well - plant-ed yields fruit a hun - dred -
 2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and
 3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient



fold, we praise your grac - es grant - ed to
 rain, at - tend the word we sow, lest its
 field will test with truth the proud - est that



those who sowed of old, who by their wit - ness
 plant - ing be in vain. Send show - ers of your
 hu - man work can yield. Op - pres - sion's blight will



scat - tered good seed up - on the soil where
 Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace, that
 van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease; and



oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
 mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
 love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Gospel

Luke 8:4-15

The holy gospel according to Luke, the eighth chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.' "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their

hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. (NRSV)

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

1. *A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue-go-el sem-bra dor en*
 1. We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land, but
 2. You on - ly are the mak-er of all things near and far. You
 3. We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good, the

5 *e - lios la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor. Mas*
 it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand, who
 paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star. The
 seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No

9 *es de Dios la ma-no que la-ha - ce ger - mi - nar, ca -*
 sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain, the
 winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed; much
 gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts but

13 *lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.*
 breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
 what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

...Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange a sign of Christ's peace
with those with whom they are physically gathered.*

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING *Oh, Sing of God's Great Victory!*

Verses (sung by leader)



1. O sing of God's great vic - to - ry! Je - sus' blood has set us free!
2. O is it not a mys - ter - y That our Lord a Lamb should be,
3. All hon - or, bless - ing, glo - ry, might Sing the hosts to Christ on high,



Let all his crea - tures join our songs, For to Christ the throne be - longs
Who on the cru - el cross was slain, But a - rose in heav'n to reign.
All pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom strength. Now let all on earth re - ply:

Refrain (sung by all)



Sing we al - le - lu - ia, prais - es to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God. At the creation you planted a garden and set humanity to care for it. By your Word you brought light and life into existence, by your Word you gave sustenance to all creatures, and by your Word you called us as stewards and caretakers of the land. Still today you bring new growth and plenty, and call us to the duty and delight of protecting and nourishing your good earth. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God. You planted in your creation the seed of hope, that the world would not continue forever in its bondage to decay. By your Word, through your prophets and singers, you watered that seed in Israel and declared to the nations that we would be redeemed. Still today you offer your Word of promise, that justice and peace will be brought to birth. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God. In the fullness of your time you sent your Word, your Son. We remember his prodigal planting of your Word by his teaching, his abundant giving of your food and health by his miracles, his gracious offering of your forgiveness by his welcome. We proclaim the passage of his final Passover, when for our sake he passed through death into life and sealed with the Spirit our own place as his companions. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit, holy God, upon us and your whole creation. Let the seed of your Word find good soil, so that we may hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance. Unite our lives and our gifts with all of your children; move us to respond with eagerness to your Word of invitation to join in your service of this suffering and beloved world; through him who is the sower and the seed, the Tree of Life and the Bread of Heaven, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



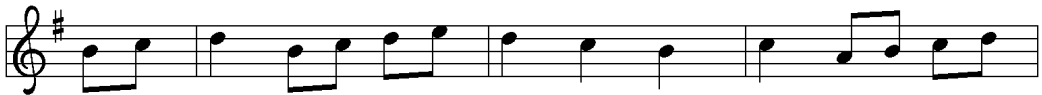
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
 joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

from *Of the Land and Seasons*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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“Let All Things Now Living”

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Tune: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter/ Aramos nuestros campos”

Text: Matthias Claudius; English tr. Jane M. Campbell; Spanish tr. Ernesto Barocio

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“We Praise You For the Life that Stirs”

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.

Tune: THE GLORIOUS HILL, Stephen P. Folkemer

“We Pray For Peace, O Lord”

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Kyrie

Tune: MY LORD, HOW LONG, African-American Spiritual

“Above the Hills”

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria

Tune: THE DEVIL’S NINE QUESTIONS, Appalachian traditional

“O God, Whose Word Well Planted”

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.

Tune: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer

“O Sing of God’s Great Victory”

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on Revelation 5

Tune: THE SHEPHERD’S DAUGHTER AND THE KING, Appalachian traditional