

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2023
Our Savior Lutheran Church**



Seed To The Sower

Thought: 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. Like the hymn, "Let My Heart Be Good Soil," it is our challenge and God's extravagance that helps the seed of life grow in our heart.

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: We are the created ones.

C: We have searched within our own lives and found an incompleteness.

A: So, come into the presence of God, our Creator.

C: There is within us a longing for something beyond our own lives; there is a hunger for the presence of God, who can make us whole.

A: So, come and receive a taste of the Spirit which will fill and satisfy you.

Gathering Hymn - Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil - ELW #512

<https://youtu.be/47ggpDhylMg>

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: From the Word which God has sown, a harvest will be gathered in.

C: But hardened ground and rocks and thorns all struggle to suppress God's Word.

P: "My Word shall not return to me empty," says the Lord. "It shall accomplish the thing for which I sent it."

C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: So, let the seed be sown.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Lord of the living harvest:

C: we confess that we have sinned. In our thinking, speaking, doing – proper fruit has not been borne. Your final harvest fills our hearts with fear.

P: “My Word shall not return to me empty,” says the Lord.

C: For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, remove our guilt, inspire our hearts – that we may bear fruit and yield thirty...sixty...and a hundredfold.

P: Like a grain of wheat buried in the earth, Jesus Christ was given into death for you.

C: And he has borne abundant fruit!

P: In him there is forgiveness, life and resurrection from the dead.

C: How great the harvest God provides! Amen.

Greeting

P: 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.

Hymn of Praise - Sing to the Lord of Harvest - ELW #694

<https://youtu.be/poZCAXBaULs>

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.

C: 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.

The Word

Old Testament 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65: (1-8) 9-13

¹Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

²O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

³When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

⁴Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

⁶By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

⁷You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

⁸Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Epistle 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

<https://youtu.be/l5ft3oCjOc0>

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks to you, O Christ.**

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/JDJAT4527IE>

Message - “The Extravagant Sower”

<https://youtu.be/f8IMZNCVq-E>

Hymn of the Day - Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast - ELW #516

<https://youtu.be/1c2mjT5schA>

THE APOSTLES’ 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

P: 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.

A: 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.
Your mercy is great.

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.
Your mercy is great.

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.
Your mercy is great.

Heal those who are sick, O God (*especially those we have named and those we now name in our hearts*). 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.
Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

OFFERING

Offertory Music - We Plow the Fields and Scatter - ELW #681

<https://youtu.be/ccVEjKfAV4>

Offertory Prayer

A: We are the recipients of your Word, O God.

C: It has taken root in our hearts. It has grown, by your grace.

A: Accept what we offer, O God –

C: the first fruits of the promised harvest.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: You have filled us with the goodness of yourself, O Christ.

C: You have planted your Word in our hearts.

A: Now direct us, by your Holy Spirit's leading, to join in the planting of the seed,

C: That we may enjoy, with you and the Father, a bountiful harvest.

A: We bless you now and evermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6

Sending Hymn - On What Has Now Been Sown - ELW #550

<https://youtu.be/J4FaxUzV84U>

Dismissal

A: The Extravagant Sower keeps planting seed to serve others!

C: Thanks be to God; we go to serve!

Postlude - Lillian Pinkston