

# July 16, 2023

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

### As We Gather

Though you may be familiar with Jesus' parable of the sower, you may be surprised to hear that you do not really know it yet! That's because on the one hand, the Word of God does not change. Yet on the other hand, we need to keep hearing it again and again, because our circumstances are constantly changing. The parable of the sower tells of this mystery. The seed is God's Word, God's work of planting repentance and faith in ears who hear. We may think of the various kinds of soil Jesus mentions to be various sorts of people. Actually, however, He is describing each individual in their changing circumstances. There are times when we are "good soil," that is, we understand God's Word and take comfort in it. There are other times, however, when we either cannot or will not hear it. Sometimes we become hard paths, rocky or distracted by worries or fears. For this reason, God never ceases planting, speaking, and growing faith in the heart, and we return repeatedly to continue hearing, reading, learning, and receiving God's Word because He never gives up on you.

## PREPARATION

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*Titus 3:3-7*

- P** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures,  
**C** **passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.**
- P** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,  
**C** **He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy,**
- P** by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**
- P** so that being justified by His grace  
**C** **we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

### Confession and Absolution

- P** In that divine hope, let us confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You by not letting You have Your way with us. We have become deaf to Your Word. Because of our weak love for You and for our neighbor, we have become fruitless trees deserving only Your judgment. Therefore, we return to You today asking Your forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith and love. By Your Word, restore us and renew us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing: upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## WORD

Hymn "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"

LSB 589 (Verses 1-2)

### Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 55:10–13*

<sup>10</sup>“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup>so 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall break forth into singing,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall make a name for the LORD,  
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual and Verse

*Romans 11:33, 36; Isaiah 40:8*

**P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**C** How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

**P** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**C** To Him be glory forever. Amen.

**P** Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades,

**C** but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured

them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>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.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Hymn of the Day

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

**1** Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;  
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.

**2** Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,  
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;  
and I shall find my peace, my All in All!

**3** You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
your holy word the truth that rescues me.  
Give me to eat and live with you above;  
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

### Sermon

“Can you Hear Me Now?”

*Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

### Creed

*Nicene Creed*

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### Offering

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth worships You, our Creator and Redeemer. By Your mighty Word, all things live and move and have their being. We praise You for Your

creation. But with even greater praise, we give thanks for Your re-creating Word by which You have conquered sin and death, restoring earth's beauty and eternal life to all who believe. Cause Your Word to be received and believed by all people, giving everyone Your new life through faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** For the glorious company of the apostles, the fellowship of the prophets, and the evangelists of Your Gospel, we give You thanks. Give conviction and strength to all today whom You have called and ordained to proclaim Your Word to this generation, and bring forth the fruits of faith and love in all those renewed by Your Word and Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** God bless our native land with freedom and wisdom to acknowledge Your Holy Word as the only sure foundation of governance in line with Your grace, wisdom, and will. Raise up servant leaders to guard, guide, and protect all citizens of our country in the way of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** As You promise Your own healing peace and comfort for Your people, so surround all who suffer any need, sickness, or adversity. Grant that their faith never fail and their prayers never cease. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** As the washing of water with Your Word in Holy Baptism raises us to new life now by faith, so give the confidence of the resurrection to eternal life to all. We give thanks for all who have departed in faith and now rest from their labors. Keep us in the wisdom and confidence of faith in the Word of our Lord Jesus who said, "everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:26). Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SACRAMENT

### Preface

**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 Him thanks and praise.

### Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom You anointed to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recover of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free. By His preaching and teaching, and by the blood of His death and His glorious resurrection, He has fulfilled Your will. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To

You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Proclamation of Christ

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

**C** 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.

### Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

### Distribution Hymns

“Thy Body Given for Me, O Savior”

LSB 619

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

LSB 411

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C Amen.**

### Hymn “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

LSB 589 (Verses 3-4)

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