



The seed sown on rich soil
is the one who hears the word
and understands it.

- Matthew 13:23 -



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2023*

Setting Four

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.

Jays & Concerns

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C. Amen

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P. Merciful God,

C. we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen

P. Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

The Greeting

P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. 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

First Reading

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, 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



For 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.

Instead 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.

L. Word of God, word of life.

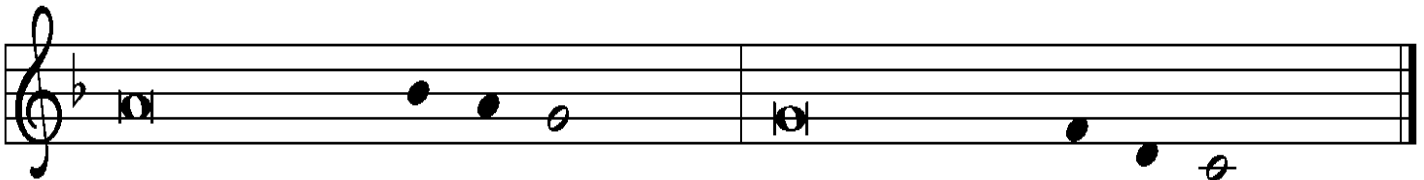
C. Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 65

(ELW tone 4)

sung responsively



You are to be praised, O ¹ God, in Zion;
to you shall vows ¹ be fulfilled.

**To you, the one ¹ who answers prayer,
to you all ¹ flesh shall come.**

Our sins are strong- ¹ er than we are,
but you blot out ¹ our transgressions.

Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your ¹ courts to dwell there!

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness ¹ of your temple.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of ¹ our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans ¹ far away.

**You make firm the mountains ¹ by your power;
you are girded a- ¹ bout with might.**

You still the roaring ¹ of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor ¹ of the peoples.

**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your ¹ marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to ¹ sing for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is ^l full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide ^l for the earth.

**You drench the furrows and smooth ^l out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and ^l bless its increase.**

You crown the year ^l with your goodness,
and your paths over- ^l flow with plenty.

**May the fields of the wilderness be ^l rich for grazing,
and the hills be ^l clothed with joy.**

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak them- ^l selves with grain;
let them shout for ^l joy and sing.

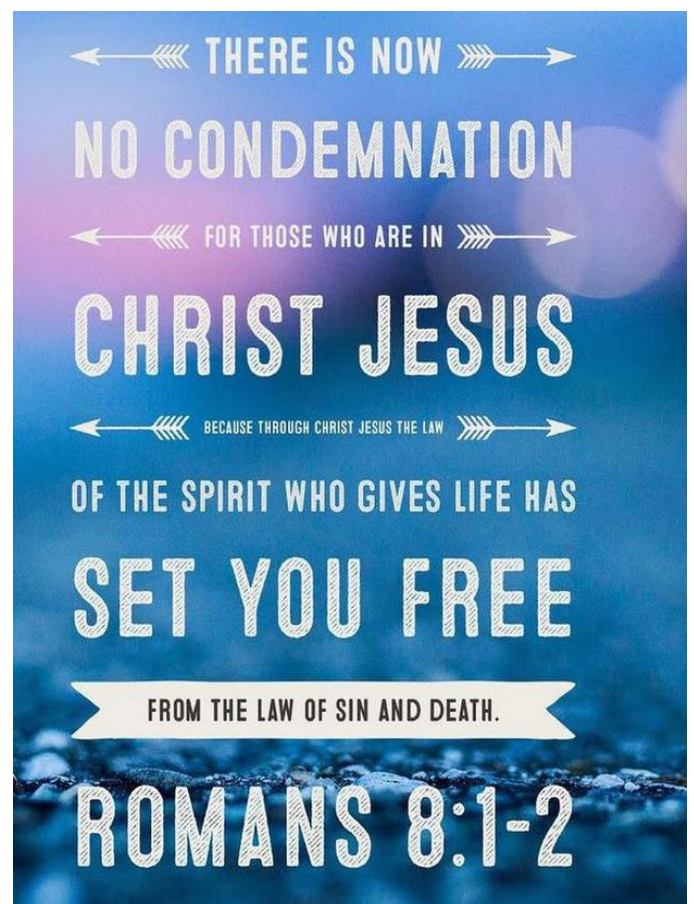
Second Reading Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For 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, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But 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. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If 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.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation



P. The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter thirteen.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet 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. As 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. But 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."

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

As Rain from the Clouds

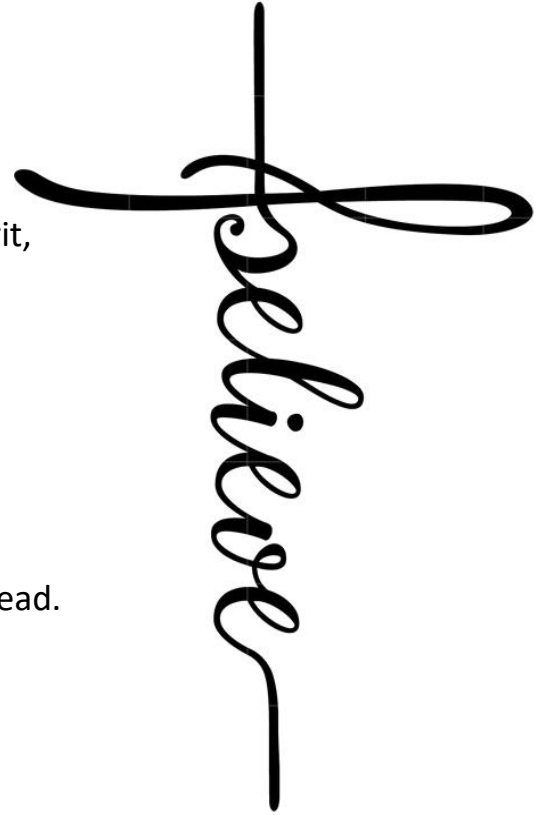
ELW 508

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

A. 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.

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.

C. 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.

C. Amen.

The Peace

- P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
May His peace be with you always.
- C. And also with you.



The Offering

Anthem

Vocalise

~ S. Rachmaninoff

Ray Green, viola

Let the vineyards...

The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is a vocalise, featuring a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some triplet markings. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

- A. 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.
- C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Great Thanksgiving. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed in pairs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

P. It is indeed.....

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might.

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Sanctus. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some phrases ending in a half note. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 Communion

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

C. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

<i>What Feast of Love</i>	ELW 487
<i>Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast</i>	ELW 516
<i>Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil</i>	ELW 512

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

A. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Blessing

P. 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.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Build Us Up Lord

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Servers for Sunday, July 16th

Assisting Minister	Sylvia Lambert
Reader	Sylvia Lambert
Altar Guild	Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters	Terry Barnes / Neil Brennecke
Special Musician	Ray Green, viola



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway.
Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

Fellowship today is provided by Clyde & Rena Bogle.



Candles for the month of July
are given to the Glory of God
by Matt & Larissa Himmeger.



Flowers this week are provided by Neil Brennecke in loving memory of Christine.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.