



# **“PARABLES OF JESUS: THE SOWER”**

***Sunday, June 27, 2021 9:00AM  
Worship Service***

## **AS WE GATHER**

It’s all about the soil. That’s what every farmer or gardener will say, “It’s all about the soil.” If the soil doesn’t contain the right amount of nutrients nothing will grow or will grow poorly. In Jesus’ Parable of the Sower, He talks about soil conditions too. But the “soil” Jesus is referring to isn’t the soil you find in fields but rather your heart.

## **WELCOME**

*Sit*

### **OPENING HYMN**

**“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”**

**LSB 782**

1 Gracious God, You send great blessings  
New each morning all our days.  
For Your mercies never ending,  
For Your love we offer praise. Refrain

ref Lord, we pray that we, Your people  
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,  
Through the sharing of Your blessings  
May bring glory to Your name.

2 By Your Word You formed creation  
Filled with creatures large and small;  
As we tend that endless treasure  
May our care encircle all. Refrain

3 In His earthly life, our Savior  
Knew the care of faithful friends;  
May our deeds of dedication  
Offer love that never ends. Refrain

△ 4 Heav’nly Father, may our caring  
Bear the imprint of Your grace;  
With the Son and Holy Spirit,  
Praise be Yours in ev’ry place! Refrain

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*Stand*

### **INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus parallels God sending His Word into the hearts of mankind the way a sower casts out seed upon soil.

**C** However, because of our sins, our hearts are not always fertile ground for the planting of the Word of God.

- P** Therefore, let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives to our Lord who hears and forgives:
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. Our hearts are too often the “path” where Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown. Our hearts are too often the “rocky ground” where trial and difficulty make us fall away. Our hearts are too often the “thorns” that choke God’s Word and keep it from being fruitful. Our hearts are sinful and selfish, pushing away the grace of God and growing only sin and deceit. It is proven in our wicked thoughts, words and deeds. Forgive us, most holy God. Make our hearts the good soil that receives Your Word and produces fruit that lasts.**
- P** The Lord Jesus came into this world with a heart that was perfect soil. He never sinned and always adhered to the Word of His Heavenly Father. His perfect life, crushing crucifixion and glorious resurrection mean complete forgiveness for the sins of our hearts and lives. Because His heart and life were “perfect soil” for us, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## PSALM

- P** Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion,  
**C** **and to You shall vows be performed.**
- P** O You who hear prayer,  
**C** **to You shall all flesh come.**
- P** When iniquities prevail against me,  
**C** **You atone for our transgressions.**
- P** Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts!  
**C** **We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple!**
- P** By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
**C** **the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;**
- P** the one who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might;  
**C** **who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,**
- P** so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at Your signs.  
**C** **You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.**

*Sit*

## HYMN of PRAISE

## “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LSB 807

- 1 When morning gilds the skies,  
 My heart, awaking, cries,  
     “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
 When evening shadows fall,  
 This rings my curfew call:  
     “May Jesus Christ be praised!”
- 2 When mirth for music longs,  
 This is my song of songs:  
     “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
 God’s holy house of prayer  
 Hath none that can compare  
     With “Jesus Christ be praised!”

- 3 No lovelier antiphon  
In all high heav'n is known  
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
There to the\_ eternal Word  
The\_ eternal psalm is heard:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 4 Ye nations of mankind,  
In this your concord find:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"
- 5 Sing, suns and stars of space,  
Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
Both now and evermore  
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

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## **SALUTATION**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P** Blessed Lord, who never fails to sow the good seed of Your Word into our hearts of varying soils,  
**C** **grant us open ears to hear Your Word so that, in Your strength, we may ward off the attacks of Satan and the cares of this world and so produce the fruit You desire in ourselves and also a harvest for You in the people around us;**  
**P** 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**

- P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

<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.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **EPISTLE READING**

**Colossians 1:3–14**

**P** The Epistle is from Colossians, chapter 1.

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup>and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup>May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL READING**

**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.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people in their various needs.

For us here and for the Church around the world, that we may be receptive soil, receiving the Word with joy and returning to God the harvest He so dearly desires, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** For the peoples of this world, that just as God's good creation responds to sun and rain with fruitful abundance, so also the leaders of the nations would respond to His call for justice and mercy within their borders, and peace and harmony with neighbor states, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** For all who are tempted by Satan, all who are burdened by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, and all who endure tribulation and persecution for the sake of Christ, that the Holy Spirit would strengthen them in faith and bring them to serenity and joy, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** For all who till the soil, manage businesses large and small, protect the nation from harm, keep the peace in our communities, respond to emergencies of health, fire, and flood, and meet the physical and emotional needs of those who rely on them, that God would strengthen and protect them, and move us all to appreciate their efforts on our behalf, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** For those near and dear to us who call out to our heavenly Father in their various needs [*including . . .*], that our gracious God would visit, relieve, heal, and restore them as fits His loving plans for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

- 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.

*Sit*

### **HYMN of the DAY**

**“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”**

**LSB 577**

- 1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.
- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.
- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

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### **SERMON**

### **PARABLES OF JESUS: THE SOWER**

### **BENEDICTION**

- P** The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless, guide, and preserve you, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”**

**LSB 919**

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus,  
Among us with Your grace

That Satan may not harm us  
Nor we to sin give place.

- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer,  
Among us with Your Word,  
And thus now and hereafter  
True peace and joy afford.
- 3 Abide with heav'nly brightness  
Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us  
From error's gloomy night.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings  
Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom  
Grow daily through Your Word.
- 5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

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## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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