

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Power of God's Seed

June 9, 12, 13, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Many of the parables of Jesus have to do with agriculture—from the parable of the sower to this short description of the Kingdom like a mustard seed. There are so many little details with application to our lives, but today the focus is on the seed and the mystery of how it grows. What brings the seed from planting to harvest is the providence of God and His goodness and power. This is both the object of our interest and the domain of faith that trusts what the eye does not see and the mind does not comprehend. At the end of it all is the harvest; God brings into His storehouse all the fruits of His seed planted in good soil. The blissful ignorance we have of this process should not deprive us of the joy of its outcome.

WELCOME

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believe
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3: 14, 16-17)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #785 "We Praise You, O God"

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our father, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'er take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People: **for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have not done. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior, I ask forgiveness and pray you to deliver and restore me by your mercy. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

9:00 BAPTISM SONG #593 "See This Wonder in the Making"

See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.

Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Beloved, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,
God, into Your arms we place them,
With Your love and peace embrace them.

Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

9:00 BAPTISM of Olivia Melede Meinzen

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✠ **WORD** ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 17:22–24* (The Lord promises to plant a sprig and make it grow, that it may be a noble tree and bear good fruit.)²² Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain."²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it

may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:1–17* (We walk by faith and not by sight.)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight.⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SONG**"ABCDEFGG"**

Hubert Mitchell

A B C D E F G, Jesus died for you and me
 H I J K L M N, Jesus died for sinful men, AMEN!
 O P Q R S T U, I believe God's Word is true.
 U V W, God has promised you,
 X Y Z, a home eternally! (repeat song)

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:26–34* (The kingdom of God is like a seed.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.

²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #651 "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
 The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.
 Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,
 Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,
 Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
 For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n
 The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.

SERMON**"God Makes the Seed Grow"****Mark 4:26-34**

(Rise)

6:00 & 5:00 APOSTLES' CREED

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.

(Be seated)

OFFERING Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and by the elevator for collection at the end of the service.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Most High, we give thanks to you that you have planted your Holy Word among us. Give healthy growth to your people, that we may grow strong in faith and life by the power of your Word. Bless us also to weather the storm-winds of this world steadfast in Christ, bearing the fruits of love and singing praises to your name. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, your Holy Spirit plants your Word and causes it to sprout and grow as it pleases You. Bless the preaching and teaching of your Word, that your kingdom may be extended. We rejoice in Olivia Meizen as she is baptized into Christ this weekend even as we give thanks to you for the new members joining our fellowship at St. Paul's. Bless us all to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, the great I AM, you speak and always fulfill your Word. We implore you for the sake of Christ to bless and defend our homes, to bless parents with faithfulness in the teaching of their children, and to preserve them in the saving faith of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Eternal Lord, Ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us: Joseph, our president, Tony, our governor, and all those who administer the affairs of government. Guide them by your Spirit to be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Compassionate Father, we are bold to ask for all things because you have given us your Spirit as a guarantee. Hear us as we intercede in Jesus' name for those in every trial, trouble, and affliction, especially Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Jan, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Give them healing and help, hope and peace in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, we groan under many burdens in this earthly tent and long to be clothed with your eternal life, which will swallow up all mortal sorrow. Give us all good courage to walk by faith and not sight, to mourn our dead in the hope of the resurrection, and to make it our aim to please you while here in the body. Bless especially Marilyn Sorcic and family as they remember Jack. In due time, grant us the blessed reunion in the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy Father, you have sent your chosen Messiah, Jesus, and planted Him on the mountain for our salvation. By His death on a tree, you have reversed the curse of sin and brought life again to dry, dusty souls. Bless us with confidence that His humility, His suffering, and His glorious resurrection bring us the gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation and eternal rest; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

6:00 & 5:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Wait for the usher to direct you to come forward. Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or elder first.

HYMN #765 “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea And rides upon the storm.

Judge nor the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence Faith sees a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding ev’ry hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flow’r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and will break In blessings on your head.

HYMN #577 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow’r may know.

HYMN #894 “For the Fruits of His Creation”

For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev’ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, we have approached the mystery of your presence this day, having heard your voice in your Word and having communed upon the blessed body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that we may live within this blessed mystery, trusting not in what our eyes see or the works of our hands or what our minds comprehend, but only in your Son, Jesus Christ, and in the salvation He has accomplished for us. Keep us in this holy faith and fear all our days until the veil is lifted and we behold you face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

The Supper is ended. O now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,

Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us

To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,

The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,

Embracing His children of each tribe and race.

With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving

Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Director of Parish Music

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Doug Bender, Dalen Heinzen, Debra Nier

Michelle Prince