

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Kingdom of the Mustard Seed

June 16 & 17, 2012

AS WE GATHER

Jesus teaches us that the mustard seed *"is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 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"* (Mark 4:31-32). As we will learn from our other Sunday readings, this parable is really talking about how the Word of the Lord grows from humble origins (cf. Psalm 1:3). There is no better example of how God's Word is spread than in Christ's own public ministry. As He began preaching and teaching His Word, in all of its Law and Gospel, Jesus became very popular! Divine truths are revealed in the simplicity of His parables. These Christ stories create and nourish faith! Believers respond! This is what Jesus said to one who wanted to follow Him: *As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."* (Luke 9:57-58) Christ delivers His truth in meaningful ways. We are the ones who tend to make it too complicated.

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN

"God of Our Fathers"

LW #501

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies;
Our grateful songs before your throne arise.

Your love divine has led us in the past; In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence
Make your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh your people on their toilsome way; Lead us from night to neverending day;
Fill all our lives with heav'n born love and grace
Until at last we meet before your face.

(Please rise)

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

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Pastor: Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners,

People: nor sits in the seat of scoffers.

Pastor: But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.

People: He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

Pastor: In all that he does, he prospers.

People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. *Psalm 1:1-4*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: Holy God, we admit this day that we have often been like chaff that the wind drives away. We have become distracted by the influences of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh. We deserve nothing but your wrath and punishment. Yet, we still have Jesus as our Savior! Save us, we pray, from all distractions and teach us to meditate upon Your Word day and night.

Pastor: Dear friends in Christ, God has indeed declared our sins forgiven. We have been made new creatures because of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. We can be sure that the Kingdom of God isn't just coming--- it is here among us! Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

"In Christ, A New Creation"

Tune: LSB #478

In Christ, a new creation; In Christ we are made new;
For Christ, the Lord of nations Is calling me and you.
In Christ, a new creation Is rising from the old;
Let's start the celebration, And let our lives unfold.

In Christ, a new creation; In Christ we are made new;
The reconciliation At last is coming true.
In Christ, a new creation, Ambassadors are we;
"Go, out to ev'ry nation, And set the captive free."

In Christ, a new creation; In Christ we are made new;
We feel the liberation, We feel God's presence, too.
In Christ, a new creation, Reborn to live again,
We sing for our salvation, We sing the great AMEN!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: 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 our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Ezekiel 17: 22-24 *(Thus says the Lord God)* “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. All the trees of the field will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. “I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.”

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:1-17 *(Our Heavenly Dwelling)* Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34 *(The Parable of the Growing Seed)* He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when

planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.” With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN # 605

“Father Welcomes”

(This is a hymn that clearly teaches about Holy Baptism and mirrors the catechesis as found in "Luther's Small Catechism." This hymn also helps us to remember that this is Father's Day and that our heavenly Father teaches us what fatherhood is all about.)

SERMON

“Like A Seed”

Mark 4:26-34

(Please rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED *(Found on the back page of the hymnal)*

(Please be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: Rejoicing in the powerful and fruitful Word of our living Lord, let us pray to our Triune God for ourselves and all people. Almighty God, we pray for the Church in this place and throughout the world,

People: that zeal for our Lord’s Word would cause us ever to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest His life-giving truth

Pastor: so that we may grow in grace and faithfully share the love of Christ. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for ourselves and all Christians,

People: that we may walk by faith and not by sight, trusting our Lord’s every promise in Christ;

Pastor: so that we may be led by your Spirit day by day. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray for all of our Synod’s missionaries,

People: that God would bless their service, make it fruitful, and help us support them in our prayers and offerings,

Pastor: so that the Word of Christ’s saving grace may be spread throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray for our land and all those who work,

People: that God would bless our labor and send favorable weather upon the earth,

Pastor: so that it may bear abundant fruit and all people may receive their daily bread. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: God our Father, we give thanksgiving for all mercies we have received from our earthly fathers,

People: asking that fathers would rejoice in Christ’s forgiveness, serve their families with love, and lead their families in receiving the Lord’s Word and gifts,

Pastor: so that our families may be formed in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of healing and hope, we pray for the sick including Irma, Dennis, Joe and Samuel,

People: praying that the Lord would sustain them with His comforting Word, hear their cries, and bless them according to His gracious will,

Pastor: that they may receive comfort, hope, and healing. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for those who feast on Christ’s Body and Blood today,

People: that we may receive Him in repentance, faith, and in a joyous common confession of what is taught here,

Pastor: being strengthened in faith to live for Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, we pray for those remembering loved ones this day especially Pam and Dalen that they are comforted by your saving grace. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN # 774 “Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy”

Feed Thy children, God most holy; Comfort sinners poor and lowly.

O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!

As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish

Till with saints in heav’nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION 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 an elder first.

HYMN # 863 “Our Father, By Whose Name”

HYMN # 570 “Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

HYMN # 814 “O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, our Father, for the life and knowledge you have revealed to us through Jesus, your Son. To you be glory forever. As this broken bread was once scattered as seed upon the fields and after being harvested was made one, so let your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 861

“Christ Be My Leader”

Preacher
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Dan Vaclav, John Ficken
Kyler Hutchins, Cassy Kallas
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller