

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Good Seed  
July 9, 12 & 13, 2014

### AS WE GATHER

God's Word is like the rain, watering the soil, and allowing it to produce plants from the hidden seeds. There is no stopping the growth, either in the plants or in God's Word fulfilling His purposes. God's Word, Jesus explains in the Gospel, is also like seed, very good seed. Although it may encounter opposition in the hearts and lives of many people, in those who are receptive, His Word produces an amazing harvest. As we are saints and sinners at the same time, we need God's help to respond to His Word. Our Baptism assures us of the promise that our heavenly Father will listen whenever we call out, "Abba, Father!"

### WELCOME

*"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17*

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

### OPENING HYMN #583 "God Has Spoken by His Prophets"

God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;  
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.  
In the world's despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast;  
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,  
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one;  
Spoken by the Word Incarnate, God of God, before time was;  
Light of Light, to earth descending, He reveals our God to us.

God is speaking by His Spirit, Speaking to our heart's again,  
In the ageless Word declaring His own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith yet standing fast;  
God abides, His Word unchanging; God the first, and God the last.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: God's Word "shall not return to Him empty," but "the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches can choke the Word, making it unfruitful.

People: **But we "did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but . . . have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' "**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

### CONFESSION

Pastor: We confess, heavenly Father, . . .

All: **that we have failed to study the truth of your Word, thereby enabling Satan to easily snatch it from our conscious thinking and daily living. Forgive us. We confess, heavenly Father, that we have let difficulties and conflict compete with your Word, thereby keeping it from growing deep within us. Forgive us. We confess, heavenly Father, that we have worried about our future and ignored your promises. Forgive us. Open our hearts and minds so that we may again receive the joyful news of your forgiveness for Jesus' sake.**

### ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Through the death and resurrection of His only-begotten Son, our heavenly Father has fulfilled His promise that His Word shall always be effective. He has removed the power of everything that would keep you from receiving His love and forgiveness; by the grace of God you are good soil! 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.

People: Amen.

### HYMN #901

### "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Stanza 5

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.  
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

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## **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,

**People: 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;**

Pastor: 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)

**+ WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 55:10–13* (God's Word shall always be effective.)

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."

**EPISTLE** *Romans 8:12–17* (By virtue of our Baptism we can call out to God, "Abba, Father!") Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23* (God sends His Word by grace, no matter the reception it receives.) That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A

farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear." "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once received it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

(Be seated)

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN #589 "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens"**

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

**SERMON**      *“Sowing Seed and Looking for the Harvest”*      *Matt. 18:1-9, 18-23*

(Rise)

**NICENE CREED** *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

**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.

*After each petition:*

Pastor: Lord in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Pastor: ... through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

+ SACRAMENT +

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI**      **“O Lamb of God Most Holy”**      (Tune: LSB #893)

O Lamb of God most holy, You take our sin away.  
O Lamb of God, have mercy on each of us this day.  
O Lamb of God most holy, You take our sin away.  
Grant us Your peace, Lord Jesus, into eternal day.

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(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 # 628 “Your Table I Approach”**

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

**HYMN #686 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by Thy help I’ve come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand’ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I’m constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom’d soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

**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.

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness,  
who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we  
thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this  
Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to  
rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled  
constantly to serve you; 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: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace. 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.**

**CLOSING HYMN #921 “On What Has Now Been Sown”**

On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
The pow’r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.  
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow’rs;  
Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.

O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,  
May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear  
And follow Thee to heav’n, our home. E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Lectors	Laurel Privatt, Debbie Ulbing, Marc Stafanic
Acolytes	Thomas Kadolph, Isaac Kallas, Jordan Koepke
Organist (Wednesday)	Jo Bender
Organist (Saturday & Sunday)	Roger Gottschalk
Music Coordinator	Kim Woller