

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Seeds and Growth
June 13 & 14, 2015
5:00pm & 9:00am

AS WE GATHER

"The kingdom of heaven is like . . ." Jesus used this phrase many times in His teaching and preaching, with the images of seeds and growth as one of His common metaphors. From the seemingly miraculous action of a tiny seed with tremendous growth, to what the Lord speaks in a beautiful promise of a divine planting and producing He Himself will provide for His people, we are today drawn to the Scriptures, the faith He has planted and grown in us through His Spirit, and the ultimate fulfillment found in Jesus Christ alone. May God grant seed, nurture, growth, and good fruit to each of us as we worship Him today.

WELCOME

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #648 "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"

Glorious things of you are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken Formed you for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake your sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, You may smile at all your foes.

See, the streams of living waters, Springing from eternal love,
Well supply your sons and daughters And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river Ever will their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring, See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a cov'ring, Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna Which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion's city I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in Your name.
Fading are the world's vain pleasures, All their boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasures None but Zion's children know.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: O God the Father, Creator of our bodies, planter and nurturer of all that grows,

People: we gather in your holy name.

Pastor: O God the Son, the Seed of our salvation, planted in death embodying our sin and resurrected to life again with a glorified body,

People: we gather in your holy name.

Pastor: O God the Holy Spirit, Sower of faith and Sanctifier of our bodies,

People: we gather in your holy name.

Pastor: Hear us and grant us your presence as we worship as your Body, your Church.

People: Receive our prayers and praise for your name's sake. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Merciful God, as we gather as one Body yet many members, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean, that our thoughts words, and deeds are always impure, and we ask for your forgiveness. As you alone "bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish," we have at times impeded the growth you desire and have failed to trust in you.

People: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We have not always been confident being away from you as we are at home in the body.

People: We have lived more by sight than by faith, trusting ourselves more than you. Forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: We have sought to increase pleasures of this body and life, without regard to building for our eternal life. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

People: We are sorry for our sin and come to you in true repentance.

Pastor: We live by faith, not by sight, and in confident faith we have the free gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. His death in the body means new life in ours. His victory over death means our freedom now and eternally. For His sake, God forgives us all our sins. I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body. May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you alone as Creator sustain and provide for this wonderful creation and for all that we need for our body and life. Plant, nurture, and grow the seed of your Word among us that your kingdom may grow here within your Church and be a blessing to our community and to the world; 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 *Ezekiel 17:22–24* (The Lord will provide new life and growth for His people.) " '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 eternal 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. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 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!

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:26–34* (Jesus' parables of the growing seed and the mustard 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.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #707 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God grant me grace To know and do His will!

Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands 'Tis a delightful road-

Nor let my head of heart or hands Offend against my God.

SERMON

"It's Time to Grow"

Mark 4:26-34

5:00 RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

(Rise)

9:00 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 all people, bringing our petitions to the Lord who plants and grows His Church so that we may take shelter in her shade. Almighty God, we pray for the growth and life of the Church through the planting of the seed of the Word.

People: **Grant us to trust your promises and follow the wisdom of your ways, that we walk not in the counsel of the wicked but delight in the law of the Lord.**

Pastor: Lord of the harvest, we pray for those who live in unbelief, that they be led to repentance and faith in Jesus.

People: **Grant us to share our faith that many more may take refuge in the branches of Christ's Church, and grow in the knowledge that the Savior died and was raised for them.**

Pastor: Lord of life, we pray that we may walk by faith and not by sight, and that we constantly anticipate one day being at home with our Lord.

People: **Fill us with your Spirit, that we may rejoice that Christ died for all so that we who live might no longer live for ourselves but for Him who for our sake died and was raised.**

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray for the nations of this world and their leaders, that life be defended and justice prevail.

People: **Bless all peoples to live in peace and grant that all useful commerce and arts flourish in our society.**

Pastor: Creator of all that is good, we ask you to bring forth the fruits of the earth, granting us favorable weather and the blessings of the harvest.

People: Bless also all those who plant and harvest crops and raise flocks and herds, and give to each and every one of us thankful hearts that willingly share your bounty with those in need.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who are grieving, sick or suffering; Bea, Elsie, Merle, Helene, Roy, Judy, Ron, Russ, Kathleen, Gretchen, Eleanor, Jack, Marge, Ruth, Sharon, Helen, Shirley, Dennis, Marion, Jack, Gretchen, Lois & Sarah, asking that the Holy Spirit grant them faith that trusts that even in the midst of trial and affliction.

People: Bless us with faith that when this tent of a body is destroyed, waiting for us is an eternal house not made with hands.

Pastor: Lord God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we rejoice with Vern and Norma celebrating 64 years and Roger and Nancy celebrating 49 years of life together as husband and wife. Bless all marriages by your love and grace.

People: Bless us all to count our blessings each day and to rejoice in your goodness evermore.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for all who receive your body and blood this day, that we be granted true repentance and sincere faith in your grace and forgiveness.

People: May this holy meal also enable us to live in Christ as God's new creation, so that we make it our aim to please Him with our lives.

Pastor: Lord of life, we pray for faith that endures to the end, that our heavenly Father may receive our thanks for all the saints who have gone before us, especially Ruth as she remembers Glenn. Fill us all with the hope of our reunion with them one day. Comfort, also, Joyce and her family upon the death of her husband, Ken.

People: Bless also the seed of the Gospel, that it may sprout and grow all our days until the final harvest unto the joys and glory of life everlasting.

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 ✠

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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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(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 #619 "Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior"

The body, giv'n for me, O Savior, thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever. By them my hungry soul is fed.

Refrain Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.

No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It finds its only joy in thee. *Refrain*

Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain*

Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master With aid and comfort e'er is near. *Refrain*

My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain*

HYMN #704 "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey your Word.
Let what you will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face, O Light eternal, through your grace.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to you, Lord, that as you richly and daily provide for all of our needs of this body and life, you so graciously bless us with the gift of forgiveness through this food and drink of the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen and grow the seeds of faith that they may flourish with trust in you and in love toward one another; 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: As we depart in His name and plant the seeds of the saving Gospel message, go out into the world in peace and faith. By that faith have courage, hold to what is good, return no evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, and love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit who waters, sustains, and grows the seeds of faith that have been planted while we remain in the body, the almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you until His eternal and perfect kingdom comes.

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

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Puppet Ministry

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Debbie Ulbing, Jane Adams

Abigail Fellenbaum

Laurel Privatt

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller