



**The Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021 Setting 1 8:15**

**"The Mystery of Growth"**

**As We Gather**

Many of the parables of Jesus have to do with agriculture. 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. This is the object of our interest, but it belongs in the domain of faith. At the end of it all is the harvest; God brings into His storehouse all the fruits of His seed planted in good soil. This mysterious process should not deprive us of the joy of its outcome.

**Welcome**

**Hymn of Invocation**

"Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing' LSB 584

**Faith and truth and life bestowing,  
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,  
Seed to life eternal sowing,  
Scattered on the wind abroad.  
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,  
Like a barren field be found,  
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,  
Shallow earth or stony ground.**

**May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing  
Bring to life the hidden grain,  
Daily in our hearts increasing,  
Bearing fruit that shall remain.  
So in Scripture, song, and story,  
Savior, may Your voice be heard.  
Till our eyes behold Your glory  
Give us ears to hear Your Word.**

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

**A** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## Confession and Absolution

**A** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
**to sing praises to your name, O Most High.**

The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
**and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
**they flourish in the courts of our God.**

They still bear fruit in old age;  
**they are ever full of sap and green,**

to declare that the LORD is upright;  
**he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**It is good to give thanks to the LORD,**  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

### Kyrie *(sing responses)*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

**This Is the Feast** (*sing*)

**C** This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Old Testament

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.)*

<sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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."

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
**and his greatness is unsearchable.**  
On your wondrous works, I will meditate,  
**and I will declare your greatness.**

## Epistle

2 Corinthians 5: 1-17

*(We walk by faith and not by sight.)*

<sup>1</sup>We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia and Verse** (*sing*)

**C** **Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

Mark 4: 26-34

*(The kingdom of God is like a seed.)*

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup>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."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

**A** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed

**A** 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.**

### **Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day** "We Walk by Faith and not by Sight" LSB 720

**We walk by faith and not by sight,  
No gracious words we hear  
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
But we believe Him near.**

**We may not touch His hands and side,  
Nor follow where He trod;  
But in His promise we rejoice  
And cry "My Lord and God!"**



**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on You when You are near  
And seek where You are found.**

**For You, O resurrected Lord,  
Are found in means divine:  
Beneath the water and the Word,  
Beneath the bread and wine.**

**Lord, when our life of faith is done,  
In realms of clearer light  
We may behold You as You are,  
With full and endless sight.**

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**Sermon** "The Mystery of Growth" Mark 4: 26-34

### **Prayer of the Church**

**A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people as they have need.

Give patience to Your Church, to her ministers, and to all of us, Your people, that we trust in Your Word and promise when eyes do not see Your hand at work; and when hearts are tempted to anxiety and fear, grant that we know the fullness of Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Make us to be good soil so that the seed of Your Word planted in us may grow, flourish, and bear the good fruit You desire. Bless the work of all pastors, missionaries, and church workers who serve us in Your name that their ministry to us bear good fruit. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Give to our president, Congress, and all leaders the wisdom to govern according to Your Word and commands that they prove worthy of the trust we have placed in them. Bring the nations to peace, and equip us to be good and responsible citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Give wisdom and discernment to Your people, that we not give in to temptation nor grow weary of trusting Your Word and serving in willing obedience to Your commands, but delight in fulfilling our baptismal calling wherever we are. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise us up to be faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. We especially lift up Jerry Lawson as he continues his missionary duties in St. Petersburg, Russia. By Your Spirit open the doors needed for Heather and Nathan as they prepare to move to Jos, Nigeria. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Bless the married that they be faithful, bless the single that they be chaste and enjoy the company and support of Christian friends, and bless the aged and infirm that they know the loving care of family in their time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Sanctify our homes with Your presence, and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism, and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Mack & Gretchen Sloan, Wanda Smith, David & Loretta Snider, Bill Stamm. Bless the children of our CLC Kinslee, Thomas, Mathew, Odell, along with their parents and our staff. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Bless those who teach Your Word, and bless our Sunday School and catechism classes and everywhere people gather to teach and learn Your Word, that the Holy Spirit guide our study, strengthen our faith, and direct us in making the good confession before the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Give relief to the suffering, healing to the sick, peace to the troubled, and comfort to those who grieve, Delpha Kessler, Michael Rasch, Denny Emerson, Jeremy Richard, Betty Williams, Steve Tieken, Bill Mischen, Barbara Kerber, Paul Bruns, Betty Tucker, Jan Meskill, Lillian Taron, Debbie Taboada, Gernot Arbruster, Donna Krueger, Dan Benson, Tammy Tolbert, Tisha Robinson, Henry Bader, Benny Broadway, Liz Glass, Brian Krueger, Bruce Zehms. and bless them with patience and endurance until You deliver them from their trials. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Help us to be good stewards of Your creation, to share what You have supplied with those in need, and to support the work of Your Church in her mission here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** All things are Yours, heavenly Father, and You have promised to supply them to us as we need and when we need them. Help us to pray with confident hearts, trusting that You will provide for us all things needful and deliver us from all things harmful, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **AMEN!**

**Offertory**

Mary Rosenboom

"Go into the World"

## Service of the Sacrament

### Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
3. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
4. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

### Communion Instructions

*For those intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

### Preface *(sing responses)*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**A** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**A** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting.

**P** Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **Sanctus**

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are  
full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.
- A** Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**A** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## 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.**

**Pax Domini** (*sing response*)

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**Agnus Dei** (*sing*)

**C** 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.

**Distribution Hymn** "Almighty God Your Word is Cast" LSB 577

**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.**

Text: Public domain

**Distribution Hymn** "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" LSB 765

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

**Judge not 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.**

Text: Public domain

**Thank the Lord** (*stand to sing*)

**C Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises  
and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent 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.

**C Amen.**

**Benediction**

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn to Depart** "On What Has Now Been Sown" LSB 921

**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!**

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## **Postlude**

## **Acknowledgments**

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