



Third Sunday of Pentecost June 13, 2021 Blended I 10:45

"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

+ PREPARATION +

Opening Song "Thy Word" SSP 31
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7,10

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

C **for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Silence for self-examination.

A Holy and gracious God,

C **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.**

Absolution

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a 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. To those who believe in His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His 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.

C Amen.

A Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

Song of Forgiveness "You Are My King" SSP 32

I'm forgiven

Because You were forsaken

I'm accepted

You were condemned

I'm alive and well

Your Spirit is within me

Because You died

And rose again

Amazing love

How can it be

That You my King

Would die for me

Amazing love

I know it's true

It's my joy to honor You

In all I do I honor You

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+ WORD +

Prayer of the Day

A Lord of all, by Your hands all things were made. In Your Word is power over order and chaos, light and darkness, life and death. Grant Your Spirit that we become instruments of Yours by Your grace, humbly serving You through the perfect Prophet and Savior of this world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.)

²²Thus 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. ²³On 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. ²⁴And 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.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:1–17

(We walk by faith and not by sight.)

¹We 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. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For 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. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

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

¹⁰For 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.

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

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷Therefore, 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.**

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.**

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

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

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He 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 for Today "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, who taught us to pray...

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.**

Offertory Mary Rosenboom "Go into the World"

+ 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 who are 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- A** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

Song of Preparation "Lamb of God" SSP 4 Setting I

**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**

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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.**

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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

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

A Let us pray.

With grateful hearts we give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have strengthened us by Your Means of Grace. Grant that our faith in Jesus, Prophet and Savior, Lord of Light and hope in our trials, would increase and our courage would grow to serve You and others in Your name through all circumstances; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Song of Thanksgiving "We Thank You Lord" SSP 5

We thank You Lord

We sing Your praise

We shout aloud alleluia.

Let all the world

seek Your face

and celebrate Your gifts of love.

**For you fulfill your promises,
and lead us forth with songs of joy
and shouts of thanksgiving**

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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Benediction

Psalm 32:10

A Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

C but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Departure "Lift High the Name of Jesus" SSP 81

**Lift high the name of Jesus
Of Jesus our King
Make known the power of His grace
The beauty of His peace
Remember how His mercy reached
And we cried out to Him
He lifted us to solid ground
To freedom from our sin**

**Oh sing my soul
And tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory**

**Lift high the name of Jesus
Of Jesus our Lord
His pow'r in us is greater than
Is greater than this world
To share the reason for our hope
To serve with love and grace
That all who see Him shine through us
Might bring the Father praise**

**Oh sing my soul
And tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory**

**Lift high the name of Jesus
Of Jesus our Light
No other name on earth can save
Can raise us a soul to life
He opens up our eyes to see
The harvest He has grown
We labor in His fields of grace
As He leads sinners home**

**Oh sing my soul
And tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens are filled with His glory**

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Postlude

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