

**JULY 12, 2020**

**WELCOMING WORD** *God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.

**C: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.**

L: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;

**C: you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

**OPENING HYMN #760 For the Fruit of All Creation**

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvest we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvest of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

**C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us: through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God, by the abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**INVOCATION**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty God,

**C: We thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:10-13** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

**SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:1-11** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.<sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.<sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot,<sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.<sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.<sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.<sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.<sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.<sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.<sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.<sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.<sup>9</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!"<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower.<sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.<sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;<sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.<sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.<sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton**

**HYMN #713 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil** (sing twice)

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence*

L: Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for the lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have entrusted to us. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Abiding God, care for all who are in need (especially ...) For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens, for those in fear, give hope. Lord, In your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries and deepen our relationships even in these trying circumstances. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**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. 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.**

**BENEDICTION** *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

**CLOSING HYMN: #221 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; oh, 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 Gods 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.



## DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 12, 2020

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 92, Thanksgiving for Vindication  
Tuesday, Ephesians 4:17-5:2, The Old Life and the New  
Wednesday, Proverbs 11:23-30, Generosity and Faithfulness  
Thursday, Psalm 86:11-17, Supplication for wisdom  
Friday, Hebrews 6:13-20, The Certainty of God's Promise  
Saturday, Matthew 7:15-20, A Tree and Its Fruit

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas: **"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." Matthew 13:23** In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near". In this parable Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

- Who first shared the good news of Jesus with you?
- Who have you shared the 'seed of good news' with?
- Are you tempted to pre-judge who might be a good recipient of this 'seed'?
- When have you been surprised by the growth of the good news?

**PRAY:** Lord God, use our lives to touch the world with your love. Stir us by your Spirit to be neighbor to those in need serving them with willing hearts, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** May God give you grace to share the story of God's love. Amen!

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### PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Helen Kahl  
Jeff Paske  
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)  
Helen Martinson  
Makenzee Smith  
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)  
Martha Hartman  
Jeannie U'Ren  
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)  
Irene Bruflat  
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)  
Bill Steinhauer  
Peter Toniazzo  
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

John Conrad (Kathy Conrad's son)  
LeRoy Collins  
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)  
Sammy Peede (nephew of Kari and Dan Hustad)  
Delores Bryant  
Brock Howe  
Dorothy Jelle  
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)  
Ruth Ann Nemet  
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)  
Harlan Oimoen  
Grace Aavang  
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)  
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)