

Sunday Worship
July 16, 2023
Time After Pentecost

Our lives are like seeds sown
in the earth. Even from what
appears to be little, dormant or
dead, God promises a harvest.



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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. if you have a "prayer request" or a "praise report", please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

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. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The Word of God is Sower and Seed* Arr. Hansen

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned.**

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned.**

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #524

What is this Place

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

Almighty God, 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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

KYRIE Red hymnal #120

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: 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.**

P: 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Red hymnal #121

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship You,**

we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

R: ¹⁰For 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, ¹¹so 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³Instead 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

R: [¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to You shall vows be fulfilled.

C: ²To You, the One who answers prayer, to You all flesh shall come

R: ³Our sins are stronger than we are, but You blot out our transgressions.

C: ⁴Happy are they whom You choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of Your house, by the holiness of Your temple.

R: ⁵Awesome things will You show us in Your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

C: ⁶You make firm the mountains by Your power; You are girded about with might.

R: ⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

- C:** ⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at Your marvelous signs; You make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**
- R:** ⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; You make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- C:** ¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain You soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- R:** ¹¹You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths overflow with plenty.
- C:** ¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- R:** ¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

R: ¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For 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, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For 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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #401

C: **Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading, fashion us all anew. It's Your leading that we're needing, help us to follow You. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come to teach us, come to nourish those who believe in Christ.**

Bless the faithful, may they flourish, strengthened by grace unpriced. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come. Come, come, come Holy Spirit come.

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Kristen Zimmann

HYMN Red Hymnal #856

How Great Thou Art

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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 to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

PRAYERS *(Response after each petition)*

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer . . .**

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.**

OFFERING—Invitation—God's Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #674

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

BLESSING

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
+ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #547

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

DISMISSAL

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:
"Serving Christ through serving others."**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude on Joyful, Joyful

Arr. Portman

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Dale & Debbie Rudisill in celebration of their 48th anniversary.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted
using a 'Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Worship Leader	Kristen Zimmann
Communion Assist	Susie Gray
Reader	Kathy Groth
Greeters	Kervyn & Janice Mach

ATTENDANCE 7/8 & 9: 96

Unified Giving 7/8 & 9: \$4,362.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION OF THE MONTH / LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HEALTH KITS

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT:

ONE **light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27")**, dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE **adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging**

ONE **sturdy comb, remove packaging**

ONE **metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging**

Two ways to help:

- 1) Purchase the items listed, put them **unassembled** in a bag and place it in the collection box in the narthex.
- 2) Donate money that a group of shoppers can use to purchase the items listed.

Give Donna Slyman a call if you have any questions @ 902-1038.

Deadline is Monday, July 31st

