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**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

“He told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A sower went out to sow.’” *Matthew 13:3*

**AS WE GATHER**

Though you may be familiar with Jesus’ parable of the sower, you may be surprised to hear that you do not really know it yet! That’s because on the one hand, the Word of God does not change. Yet on the other hand, we need to keep hearing it again and again, because our circumstances are constantly changing. The parable of the sower tells of this mystery. The seed is God’s Word, God’s work of planting repentance and faith in ears who hear. We may think of the various kinds of soil Jesus mentions to be various sorts of people. Actually, however, He is describing each individual in their changing circumstances. There are times when we are “good soil,” that is, we understand God’s Word and take comfort in it. There are other times, however, when we either cannot or will not hear it. Sometimes we become hard paths, rocky or distracted by worries or fears. For this reason, God never ceases planting, speaking, and growing faith in the heart, and we return repeatedly to continue hearing, reading, learning, and receiving God’s Word because He never gives up on you.

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184-185)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”* (*LSB* 589)

**PSALM 65:9-13** (w/ Gloria Patri, *LSB*, pg. 186)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 186)

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (*LSB*, pg. 187-189)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 189)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 55:10-13 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Romans 8:12-17 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA** (*LSB*, pg. 190)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 191)

**HYMN** *“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”* (*LSB* 577)

**SERMON *“A Sower Went Out to Sow”***

**OFFERTORY** (*LSB*, pg. 192-193)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 194-198)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”* (*LSB* 545)

*“On What Has Now Been Sown”* (*LSB* 921)

**NUNC DIMITTIS** (*LSB*, pg. 199-200)

**THANKSGIVING** (*LSB*, pg. 200-201)

### SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS (LSB, pg. 201-202)

**BENEDICTION** (*LSB*, pg. 202)

**HYMN** *“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”* (*LSB* 923)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**