

THE PARABLES OF LENT
March 1, 2023
RECEIVE THE WORD

THE PARABLE *of the*
SOWER *and the* SEED



Welcome, and Announcements

Opening Hymn “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” LSB 428

Please stand

Invocation

P We begin our service this evening in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Responsory

P In this holy season the Son of God humbles Himself so that we receive mercy.

C **Humble me once again, O God, that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to You.**

P In this holy season the Son of God spreads the seed of His Word over our hearts.

C **Make our hearts the good soil, O God, that receives Your Word and produces fruit that lasts.**

P In this holy season the Son of God enters into His Passion and death so that we are exalted.

C **Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to You.**

Confession and Absolution

P Our hearts are not always fertile ground for the planting of the Word of God. Let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives to our Lord who hears and forgives:

C Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. Our hearts are too often the “path” where Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown. Our hearts are too often the “rocky ground” where trial and difficulty make us fall away. Our hearts are too often the “thorns” that choke God’s Word and keep it from being fruitful. Our hearts are sinful and selfish, pushing away the grace of God and growing only sin and deceit. It is proven in our wicked thoughts, words and deeds. Forgive us, most holy God.

P The Lord Jesus came into this world with a heart that was perfect soil. He never sinned and always adhered to the Word of His Heavenly Father. His perfect life, crushing crucifixion and glorious resurrection mean complete forgiveness for the sins of our hearts and lives. Because His heart and life were “perfect soil” for us, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Be seated

Hymn of Response “On My Heart, Imprint Your Image” *LSB* 422

Epistle Reading ... Colossians 1:3-14

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the

knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel reading

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

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¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower:

¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the

Be seated

Sermon Hymn *Sung to the tune of LSB 424*

1. We listen as the Word like scattered seed is sown,
For as each parable is heard Christ's kingdom is made known.
- 2 On soil of every kind the precious seed we sow
That in good soil the Word might find a place to thrive and grow.
- 3 In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,
Your work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your merits, not my own.

Sermon

kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Offering

Please stand

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

P Sower of the seeds,

C make Your Word take root and grow.

Lord's Prayer

Luther's Evening Prayer

P Together, let us pray the Evening Prayer of Martin Luther.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day. I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angels be with me that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

Benediction

P Receive the blessing of the Lord:

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us all.

C Amen

Be seated

Closing Hymn "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" LSB 577

<p>Pastor The Rev. Hal Rex Longshore Music Barbara Mrosko</p>
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