

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
July 16, 2023

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.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens" (LSB – 589 – 4 verses)

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,
Newborn life and spirit give me,
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor

Oh, what blessing to be near You
Let me ever love and hear You,
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
But to all who feel sin's burden

Let Your Word to me come near;
Let each promise still my fear.
Wars against Your Word of life;
That I cling to You forever!

And to listen to Your voice;
Let Your Word be now my choice!
Flee in terror at Your Word;
You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;
Lord, Your words will be my light
Yes, they are my sword prevailing

When my thirsting spirit pleads.
On Your words my spirit feeds.
Through death's cold and dreary night;
And my cup of joy unailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
May Your Spirit e'er be near me
May I daily sing Your praise,
Till my highest praise is given

Let Your words in me take root.
That I bear abundant fruit.
From my heart glad anthems raise,
In the endless joy of heaven.

✠ WORD ✠

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures,

People: passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Pastor: But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

People: He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy,

Pastor: by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

People: whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Pastor: so that being justified by His grace

People: we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In that divine hope, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You by not letting You have Your way with us. We have become deaf to Your Word. Because of our weak love for You and for our neighbor, we have become fruitless trees deserving only Your judgment.

Therefore, we return to You today asking Your forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith and love. By Your Word, restore us and renew us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing: upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT

Pastor: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;

People: for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

Pastor: But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children,

People: to those who keep His covenant and remember to do His commandments.

Pastor: The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

(God's powerful Word for all.)

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth and making it produce and sprout, and providing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it. 12 For you will go out with joy and be led in peace; the mountains and the hills will break into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn bush, the juniper will come up, and instead of the stinging nettle, the myrtle will come up; and it will be a memorial to the Lord, an everlasting sign which will not be eliminated.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:12-17

(Life through the Spirit.)

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - 13 for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by

the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23

(The parable of the sower.)

(please stand)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

1 On that day Jesus had gone out of the house and was sitting by the sea. 2 And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. 3 And He told them many things in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and they sprang up immediately, because they had no depth of soil. 6 But after the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8 But others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times as much. 9 The one who has ears, let him hear.

18 "Listen then to the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his

heart. This is the one sown with seed beside the road. 20 The one sown with seed on the rocky places, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 And the one sown with seed among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, and the anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 But the one sown with seed on the good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times as much.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \times of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast” (LSB – 577 – 4 verses)

Almighty God, Your Word is cast Now let the dew of heav’n descend	Like seed into the ground; And righteous fruits abound.
Let not the sly satanic foe But give it root in ev’ry heart	This holy seed remove, To bring forth fruits of love.
Let not the world’s deceitful cares But let it yield a hundredfold	The rising plant destroy, The fruits of peace and joy.
So when the precious seed is sown, That all whose souls the truth receive	Life-giving grace bestow Its saving pow’r may know.

MESSAGE: “Radical Grace: It’s All About the Sower”

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23

Pastor Doug Bielefeldt

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

OFFERING

(please be seated)

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ’s church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LSB 781 vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

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.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: “In Christ Alone” (CCLI # 1280892) (4 verses)

In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

HYMN: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” (LSB 575 – 4 verses)

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name. **Refrain**

***Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.***

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! **Refrain**

HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (LSB 643 – 2 verses)

Sent forth by God's blessing,	Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.	The Supper is ended.
O 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 God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving	To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday 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.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in

His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Almighty Father, Bless the Word” (LSB 923 – 3 verses)

Almighty Father, bless the Word Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav’n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

LSB HymnLicense.NET,#100010583. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright @ 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Above used by permission. All rights reserved.

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for continued healing

***Judy Beauford - Ed Funk - Ed Mycock
Robert Saur - Josh Sagebiel - Snookie Moore***

For Family and Friends

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for Reese Richeson, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer.

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – Margaret Chamness

Debra Beard's daughter-in-law Sarah and husband Jake

Roger Winkelmann requests prayers for his sister, Linda trying new medicine for Parkinson's.

Jim Minica requests prayers for his sister, Linda Rose

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

For Messiah's Learning Teams and Call Committee

We pray for discernment of the police officials who face massively increased populations and increases in crime while they remain on a tight budget.

Prayers for all on our hearts with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done.

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message.

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ears to us who have now made our prayers & supplications to You, and grant that those things that we have faithfully asked according to Your will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

JULY ALTAR FLOWERS

July 2nd – Rebecca Bottlinger – Commemorating the Declaration of Independence by the Constitutional Congress dated July 4, 1776

July 2nd – Mark & Melissa Rutledge – celebrating 27 years of marriage

July 9th - Russ & Margaret Leachman – celebrating 35 years of marriage

July 16th – Dan & Donna Cifers – in honor of Donna's Mom – Margaret Chamness

July 23rd - Steve & Janet Haberoth – thanksgiving for God's Blessings

July 23rd – Bill & Linda Dicke – the blessing of Grandbabies

July 30th - Mike & Debbie Stender - celebrating 51 years of marriage

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

Adult Sunday School *Pastor Doug Bielefeldt will be leading this class today on Luke 15:11-32 – God Rejoices When The Lost Are Found! Today we continue Pastor's Course for Adult Instruction in the Lutheran Christian Faith. We welcome all who are considering joining Messiah as well as anyone seeking additional information on what we believe.*

Vision Team *There will be a brief congregational meeting after service on July 30th for the Vision team to present their recommendations and to take questions from the congregation. Please plan to be at this important meeting as we move closer to finalizing the information needed for our Call package! If you have any questions before the meeting, please reach out to someone on the Vision Team (Melissa Rutledge, John Beard, Tom Bibb, Mark Giardinelli, Gina Huskey, Sharon Loren)*

Many have asked if there is still a need *for financial resources in addition to the already generous donations that have been given for the Refurbishment Project. Yes, there is opportunity for congregational support for: Audio-Visual new speakers, projectors - New narthex furnishings - Repair and updating of our sanctuary air-conditioning/heating systems – tree trimming and landscape updating. Anyone interested in sharing in meeting those needs can earmark donations to “Refurbishment.”*

Additionally, manpower will be needed in the near future: *Be on watch for workday announcements for (once a date has been set): Grounds yardwork/cleanup - Move in Day help - Dedication & Community Celebration Day. Questions: contact David Wendeborn.*

Messiah's Ladies Time Out - *By popular demand we are going to do lunch at El Cazor again since the food is awesome and service excellent and it was inside and very nice!! We are already scheduled there for Thursday, July 20th at 11am!! RSVP to Lindy or sign up at church!!*

Save the Dates - *Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center's Annual Fundraising Gala Tuesday, September 19, 2023. MLC's Annual Messiah 5K Fun Walk/Run - Saturday morning, September 30, 2023. MLC's Annual Adult Christmas Party - Saturday evening, December 9, 2023. Be on the lookout for forthcoming information!*

Issues, Etc. - *Educating A New Generation Of Lutherans... This week's subjects include: The Movies “Sound of Freedom” and “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny;” An Attempt by Concordia University Texas to Reject the Governance & Oversight of the LCMS; Truth & Tolerance; Female Pastors & the Lutheran Church of Australia and more. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or your favorite podcast provider.*

*But as for what was sown on
good soil, this is the one who
hears the word and
understands it, who indeed
bears fruit...*

Matthew 13:23, NRSV



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz, Elkhorn

Boerne, Texas 78015

(830) 755-4300

www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – July 16, 2023

Elders:	Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee:	Marilyn Mazurek
Treats:	Vonda Petmecky
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader:	Sharon Sattler
Ushers:	Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublet – Harold Moore
Greeters:	Sue Theis & David & Sharon Sattler

Serving us Next Sunday – July 23, 2023

Elders:	Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee:	Shirley Moore
Treats:	Larry & Kathy Rottman
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader:	Artie Dolt
Ushers:	Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublet – Harold Moore
Greeters:	Sue Theis & Larry & Kathy Rottman

Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 82 | Sunday School: 23

June 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$44,490.94	Building Fund	\$3,740.00
Renovation Fund	\$51,629.79	Family Life Center	\$3,486.46