



*“Listen! A sower went out to sow.”*

*Matthew 13:36*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – July 13, 2014**

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – July 13, 2014**

*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.*

**PRELUDE:** *Chorale on 'Liebster Jesu' – Wayne Wold*  
(Dearest Jesus, at Your Word)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds,  
let us confess our sin.

God our strength,  
**we confess that we are captive to the power of sin  
that dwells within us.**

**We put ourselves first and others last.**

**What we think will make us happy  
leaves us longing for more.**

**Even when we want to do what is good,  
we find ourselves doing the opposite.**

**Rescue us from death's grip on our lives,  
and raise us up day by day,**

**that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**Amen.**

Sisters and brothers,  
all have fallen short of the glory of God;  
therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift.  
Nothing can separate us  
from the love of God in + Christ Jesus,  
in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #533: *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty***

**\*GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10 – 13** (page 686 in Old Testament)

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

<sup>10</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 65:9-14**

1. You visit all the earth, O Lord,  
And water it abundantly;  
Your stream runs full; preparing grain,  
You make provision rich and free.
2. You drench the furrows, smooth the fields,  
Soften the ground with heavy rain;  
You crown with goodness all the year

And leave rich paths across the plain.

3. May desert fields be filled with herds,  
And hills be clothed with gladness, too;  
May meadows, valleys, clothe themselves  
With flocks and grain and sing to you.

From: *A New Metrical Psalter*

Tune: *Puer Nobis*

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:1 – 11** (page 157 in New Testament)

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:1—9, 18--23** (page 13-14 in New Testament)

*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." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON  
SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #506: *The Word of God is Source and Seed***

**\* APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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 OF INTERCESSION**

Strengthened by the Spirit who gives us words to speak and hearts that care, let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens.

Merciful God, you give your word to guide, correct, teach, and inspire. Draw us into your story, and give us wisdom, understanding, and obedient hearts as we follow your Son Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The amazing cycle of birth, growth, and death sustains your creation. Bring forth an abundant harvest, keep farmers safe, and teach us to cherish life in all its forms and stages. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In places of war, bring peace, and in places of hatred, sow love. Help world leaders set aside their prejudices, put down their weapons, and work together for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We live in a land of plenty, and still there are those without enough to eat. Give us generous hearts to those who are hungry. Bless the hands of those who work so that others might eat. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy source of hope, so many people are in pain today. Give us hearts of compassion, hands that heal, and lips that speak words of comfort and encouragement. Surround with love all those in need, especially Tim, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise up leaders for your church who will tend to your harvest. We lift up seminaries and church colleges, bishops and synod staffs, Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation, as they live out their callings to serve. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the memory of those who now worship at your eternal throne and bless those who worship in hopeful expectation of your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, God of mercy, confident that all things are in your hands. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.

*Or Shalom be with you.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #512: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

God of mercy and grace,  
the eyes of all wait upon you,  
and you open your hand in blessing.  
Fill us with good things at your table,  
that we may come to the help of all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial**  
and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,**  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Everyone who hungers, come to the table.  
Eat what is good, that you may live.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The inner ring of individual cups has grape juice.*

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**COMMUNION HYMN #679: *For the Fruit of All Creation***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, Lord of heaven and earth,  
that you have fed us in a way our hearts can understand,  
with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ.  
Enliven us by your presence in this meal,  
that we may be your presence in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

May God the sower  
make you good and fertile soil.  
May Christ the seed  
bloom and grow in your words and actions.  
May the fruitful Spirit  
bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.  
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #544: *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *'Festive Recessional'* – Charles Callahan**

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**The flowers this week are given by Katie & Todd Niklewicz in honor of their 7<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and for the 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Katie's parents, Larry & Amy Werner.**

**9:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Kelly Greb

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:** Madison Cardinal

**Lector:** Keith Cardinal

**Usher:** Cardinal

**Attendance Last Week:** 69

**Attendance last year:** 46

**Weekly Budgeted Need:** \$ 2,640.27

**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 4,638.00

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 71,287.27

**Year to Date Receipts:** \$ 77,385.70

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 64,815.67

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