



seventh sunday after
PENTECOST
p e n t e c o s t



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

July 12, 2026

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



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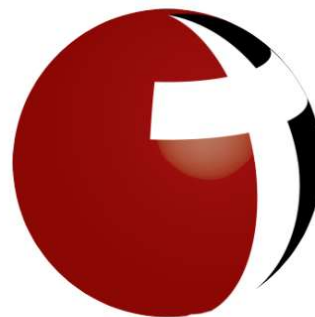
YOU ATTEND TO THE EARTH AND
WATER IT; WITH ABUNDANCE YOU
ENRICH IT. THE STREAMS OF GOD
ARE FULL OF WATER, FOR YOU
PREPARE OUR GRAIN BY
PROVIDING FOR THE EARTH.

- PSALM 65:9



WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



Altar flowers are in honor of
Sean and Cindy Bullock
on their 5th wedding anniversary.



**Brunch will resume
in August**



lcmc
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PRAY FOR: THE SEEKERS

Many are seeking you, Lord. Open their eyes and ears to your word and truth.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36

 **PRAYER LEAGUE**
prayerleague.org

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

Hymn # 597

**¹ 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]

Hymn # 597

[Refrain]

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

Hymn # 597

**2 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]

Hymn # 597

[Refrain]

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

Hymn # 597

**³ His oath, his covenant, his
blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed
away,
he then is all my hope and stay.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 597

[Refrain]

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

Hymn # 597

**Final When he shall come with
trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness
alone,
redeemed to stand before the
throne!**

Hymn # 597

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

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

Hymn # 597

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.

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Glory To God

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
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.
[Refrain]*

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
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.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
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.*

[Refrain]

[Refrain]

*Glory to God, glory to God,
glory to God in the highest,
glory to God, glory to God,
and peace to God's people on
earth, and peace to God's people
on earth.*

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.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

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.

¹⁰ 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,
¹¹ 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.

¹² 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. ¹³ 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:[1-8] 9-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

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

² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

**⁴ Happy 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.**

⁵ Awesome 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.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your
power;
you are girded about with might.**

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

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.**

⁹ You 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.

**¹⁰ You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be
rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May 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

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 death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus 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 Acclamation

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia.

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ 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.

⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, 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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ 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.

²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ 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.

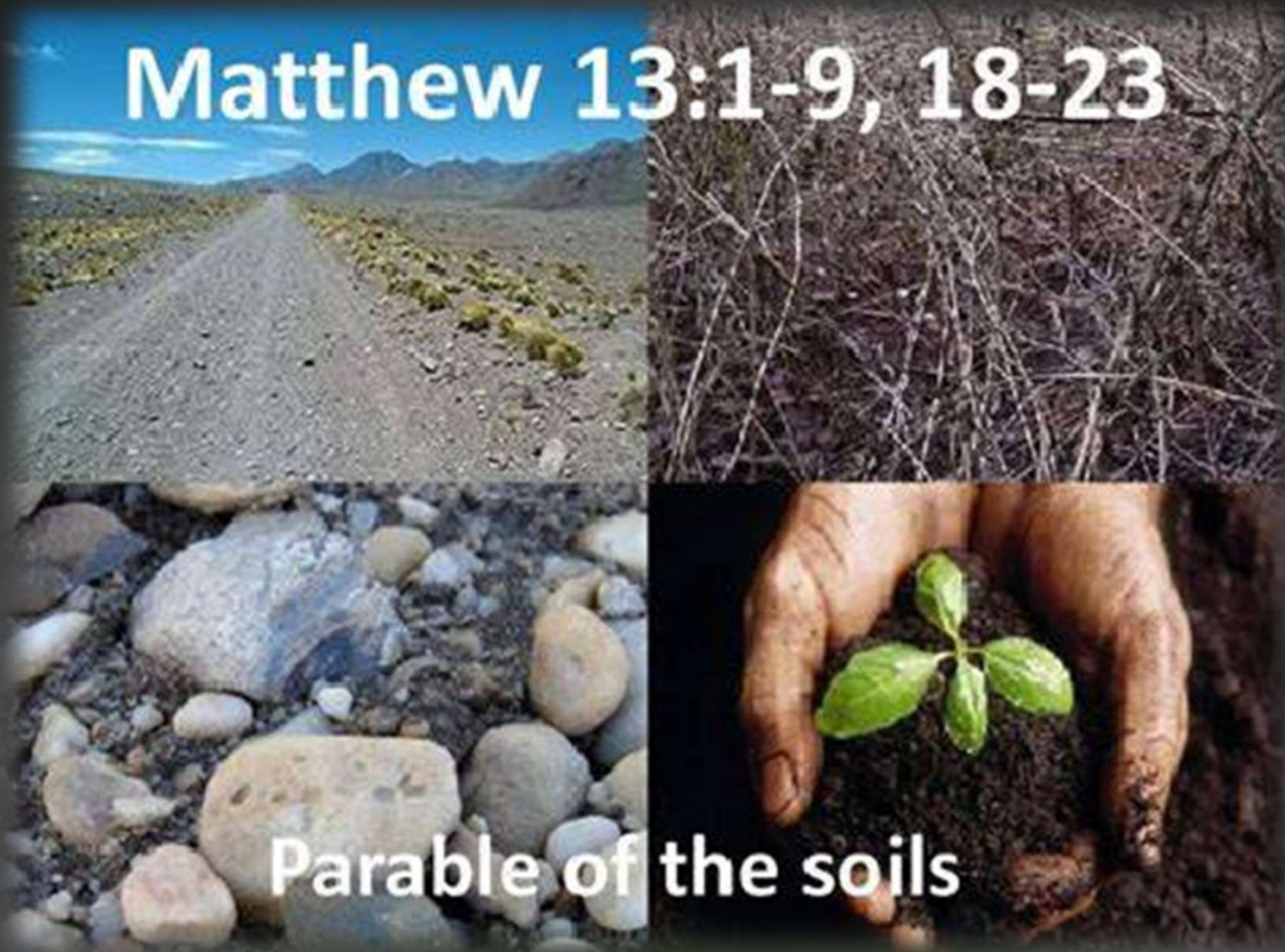
Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



Parable of the soils

Hymn of the Day

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

Hymn # 512

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace
is understood.**

Hymn # 512

**When my heart is hard, break
the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold, warm it
with the day.**

**When my heart is lost, lead me
on your way.**

Hymn # 512

**Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil**

Hymn # 512

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' 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.**

Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, for local concerns and we remember our friends and family members before you.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary Isa in East Asia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Carrollton, Ohio.

We also celebrate and lift before you the ministry of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Taylor, Texas and their pastor, Caleb Bahr. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Amen.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and
ever.***

¹ Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.***

***² For you alone are the Holy One,
and blessed is the one whose
name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy
God!***

Refrain ***Salvation belongs to our God
and to Christ the Lamb forever and
ever.***

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Hymn # 547

**¹ Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling
take leave.**

Hymn # 547

**The supper is ended. Oh, now be
extended the fruits of this service in
all who believe.**

Hymn # 547

**The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God
and for all.**

Hymn # 547

**Your grace shall invite us, your
love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and
answer your call.**

Hymn # 547

**Final With praise and thanksgiving
to God everliving,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will
face -**

Hymn # 547

**our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring, embracing God's
children, the whole human race.**

Hymn # 547

**With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we
share.**

Hymn # 547

**Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name
that we bear.**

Hymn # 547

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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P E N T E C O S T