



SUMMER SCHOOL: LESSONS FROM JESUS

The Parable of the Sower

July 26/27, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's eternal love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment.

NEW WORSHIP SERIES: SUMMER SCHOOL – Lessons from Jesus

For the remaining of the summer, we will join Jesus and his disciples in the classroom as he tells *parables*. (Jesus' *parables* are extended similes with which he makes a point of comparison between a true-to-life situation [the known] and a spiritual truth [the unknown].) We will observe him teaching in the real world as he performs miracles and teaches us life lessons and eternal life lessons. Each Gospel lesson, enhanced by the Old Testament lesson, will keep our faith focused on the Word as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.



Today's Focus: Today's Gospel is the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. But in our First Lesson from Isaiah 55, we see clearly how *We Are Watered by the Word of God*.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O Lord, as we prepare to worship you today. Help us to concentrate on your life-saving gospel which reminds us that heaven is ours. Help us take this to heart. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING PRAISE

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend; On Him we will depend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia! Amen!
Life will not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"
"Alleluia! Amen!" "Alleluia! Amen!"

INVOCATION

Based on Psalm 100-101

Minister: I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise.

Congregation: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever.

M: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

C: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

M: Know that the LORD – the Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit – is God. He made us, and we are his people.

C: Give thanks to him and praise his name. Amen.

CONFESSION

M: In the parable of the sower, Jesus says that the seed of God's Word falls on different kinds of soil. Sometimes the seed does not result in a harvest because of a shallow faith, or because the worries of this life or the deceitfulness of wealth choke it. Let us reflect on our own lives, confess our sins, and seek God's forgiveness and the strength he provides for us to be more productive.

C: Heavenly Father, we praise you for the good seed of truth which you have sown in our hearts. However, we acknowledge that because of the sinful nature within us, it has not always produced an abundant crop of Christian love and service. This is because we have allowed the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth to choke it. Or we have used the troubles of life as an excuse to avoid serving you and others. We have sinned. We deserve only your divine wrath.

For Jesus' sake, have mercy upon us. Renew us and give us opportunities to produce an abundant crop of righteous words and loving actions.

ABSOLUTION

M: The Lord is patient. In his mercy, he waits for us to grow in faith and service as he continues to water the seeds of his forgiveness and grace in our hearts. He forgives our sins and gives us the grace to be productive Christians. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: 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 and to bring forth fruits of faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORSHIP PRAISE

Every Promise of Your Word

STAND

THE WORD

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

What a description of Jesus' ministry! What a description of ours! The Sower scatters the seed of the Gospel to all with no regard for where it might land. Remember, our job is to sow the seed. God's job is to make it grow.

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea.² A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore.³ He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow.⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it.⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep.⁶ But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away.⁷ Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it.⁸ But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.⁹ Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

...

¹⁸ "So listen carefully 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 seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²² The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³ But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Children remain seated with their families as pastor shares a message.*

SERMON SONG

By the Power of Your Word

Cantor:

**By the power of your Word you have changed our hearts
to believe what you say; through the message
of your forgiving love you restore our souls,
driving all our fears away.**

Congregation:

**By the power of your Word you have changed our hearts
to believe what you say; through the message
of your forgiving love you restore our souls,
driving all our fears away.**

**All that power is in the Word – Son of God, mighty Lord,
Son of Man, humble slave;
Treasures of truth and hope are heard from the Shepherd who came
both to seek and to save.**

**For us he was wounded – what shocking grace,
what peace in the promise he gives!
Our souls are securely in God's embrace –
raised up from the grave, Jesus lives!**

¹⁰Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return there unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout, so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

“We Are Watered by The Word of God!”

His Words Are ...

- Divine
- Enduring
- Dynamic

STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Third Article – Luther’s Explanation

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing, believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Whether you are worshiping in person or watching online, please fill out our Connection Card on our web site at www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship.

OFFERING PRAISE

Death Was Arrested

By Adam Kersh, Brandon Coker, Heath Balltzglier And Paul Taylor Smith

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father: we offer and present ourselves before you today as your servants, as messengers of the Gospel, as ambassadors of the Good News of your love. We bring you our offerings and prayers in support of the world-wide mission efforts of our church body.

C: Through them, bring the message of Christ's sacrifice to the people of this world, to the honor of Jesus' holy name.

M: Gracious Lord, your Word proclaims that you desire the salvation of all people, and that you have given your Son to be the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

C: We thank and praise you for your all-inclusive mercy.

M: We praise you for the gift of your holy Word, and for preserving it for us these many years.

C: Grant us joy in hearing and learning its truths.

M: Continue to grant us leaders and teachers who will preach and teach pure doctrine according to your Word.

C: Enable us to subject our pride, our stubbornness, our doubts, and our laziness to the power of your written Word.

M: In your mercy help us through this virus, that our government, businesses, churches, schools, and families might be able to overcome and to carry on their tasks unhindered.

C: Bring healing and peace to those who have suffered from its effects.

M: Now, for the things we truly need, and in accord with the words which Jesus has taught us, we rise and pray ...

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Lindisfarne

M: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with us

C: Wherever he may send us.

M: May he guide us through the wilderness,

C: Protect us through the storm.

M: May he bring us home rejoicing

C: At the wonders he has shown us

M: May he bring us home rejoicing

C: Once again into these doors.

M: + In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

C: Three in One. Amen.

BE SEATED

**Blessed Jesus, at your Word We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love you solely.**

**Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing your praises yonder.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our songs of praise today are accompanied by **Cross Rhythms**,
one of our congregation's own musical groups.

Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Dave Pries
Scripture Readers: Dennis Oldenburg – 8:00 am
Bruce Heckmann – 9:45 am

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Text by Christian Bateman; traditional Spanish melody. Text and Tune: public domain.

Every Promise of Your Word

Words And Music By Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2005 ThankYou Music All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #1180837.

By the Power of Your Word

Words by Michael D. Schultz Arrangement ©2012 Hearts to God. 1-800-761-3550 www.HeartstoGod.com All rights reserved. Used by Permission. CCLI #1180837.

Death Was Arrested

Music Arranged by Adam Kersh, Brandon Coker, Heath Balltzglier And Paul Taylor Smith © 2015 Adam Kersh Music (BMI) Bcoker Music (BMI) Music At North Point (BMI) Paul Taylor Smith Publishing (BMI) Seems Like Music (BMI) (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #1180837.

Blessed Jesus at Your Word

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt. Tune: Johann R. Able, 1625-73. Alt. Text, tune, & setting: public domain.

Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved.

CONTACT US

Dave Pries, Pastor
920.285.1068
Pastor.Pries@eternal-love.org

Dave Backus, Pastor
920.716.7987
Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher
920.858.3933
Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager
920.749.9744
Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



ETERNAL-LOVE.ORG



WEE-LOVE.ORG