

What kind of
soil are you?



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.” —Matt. 13:23

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Larimore, ND
July 16, 2023
7th Sunday after Pentecost

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made

Assembly: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: We praise and thank you for your amazing grace & life-giving
power!

ALL: Let us worship and give praise to God!

*CONFESSION

Lord, we confess our lack of faith. We see a glimpse of what we out to be and we know we fall short of the goal. We desire faith that is solid and unchanging, yet we crumble under trials and temptations. We want to be strong, but we know our weakness. Our sinful condition strips us of any spiritual gain that we humanly devise. Lord, forgive us. Accept us as we are, unworthy for the task, yet gifted for Your purposes, Grant us Your gift of Faith.

*FORGIVENESS

Our God is a great God, He knows our needs for all areas of life. He knows our weakness and our unbelieving hearts. Yet, He loved us enough to die on a cross to provide forgiveness of our sin. Now the focus is not one the faith that we can muster, but on the great fits He gives daily as we trust Him. God has given us the gift of faith – faith

for the moment...faith for every trial...faith for every temptation...faith for every difficult situation. Praise God for His gift of faith.

***GATHERING HYMN** “*Beautiful Savior*” OSB 9

***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

The FIRST READING for today is Isaiah 55:1-13. Found on page 598 in the Pew Bible.

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. ² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. ⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. ⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.”

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.” *WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.*

The PSALM for today is Psalm 65:1-13. Found on page 459 in the Pew Bible. We will read responsively, verse by verse.

¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed, ² **O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.** ³ When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. ⁴ **Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.** ⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. ⁶ **By your^[a] strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.** ⁷ You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples. ⁸ **Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.** ⁹ You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. ¹⁰ **You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.** ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. ¹² **The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy;** ¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks; the valleys deck themselves with grain; they shout and sing together for joy.

The SECOND READING for today is Romans 8:1-17. Found on pages 218-219 in the Pew Bible.

⁸ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit^[a] of life in Christ Jesus has set you^[b] 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,^[c] 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.^[d] 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^[e] set their minds on the things of the Spirit.^[f] ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit^[g] 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,^[h] 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^[i] 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^[j] from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through^[k] his Spirit that dwells in you. ¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba!^[l] Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness^[m] with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*My Jesus I Love Thee*” OSB 144 vs.1

P: The Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: *Matthew 13:1-23* (NIV Translation)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.” ¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” ¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ““You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever

seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'^[a] ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. ¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"How Great Thou Art"* OSB 78 vs.1-2

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *“How Great Thou Art”* OSB 78 vs.3-4

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I have faith in God, in response to overwhelming love...I believe that God created me and all that I have, and has given to me gifts beyond measure...I have faith in Jesus, who emptied himself out of his love for me...I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered death and the power of evil, and was raised to life on the 3rd day. His death is mine, His resurrection is mine, new life is mine because of Jesus' words and work...I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to overwhelming love...I believe that the Holy Spirit is present here among us and lives within each person. The spirit continues to call people by the gospel, and creates and builds the church of Christ. Through the power of the Spirit I have power to stand in strength and against all adversity...I believe that Jesus is preparing a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. AMEN.

***OFFERING** *“We Give Thee But Thine Own”*

We give Thee but thine own, what e'er thy gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee. AMEN.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray, All good gifts come from you, dear Lord, and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SING: *Just As I Am:* Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

***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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

May the God of all comfort surround you with His tender mercies and strength. May He breathe fresh life into your soul and put a new song in your heart. May He broaden the path beneath your feet and make your footsteps firm. And may He lead you to a spacious place and answer your heartfelt prayers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** “*To God Be the Glory*” OSB 241

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, be a warrior of prayer and a light of hope in a darkened world! **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Welcome! We are glad you are with us today! If you are interested in joining our church, please contact Lori at 218-791-2671 or Julie at 701-741-5683. If you have an emergency, call Wayne Knudson (church president) at 218-779-3594 -or- Camilla Stover at 218-791-2678.

Our Savior’s Mission Statement:

“**Excited by faith**, we are called to **serve all**; gathered to **WORSHIP**, **inspired** to teach, **we are our Savior’s!**”

Serving this Sunday

Ushers: ??

Reader: Les Canarr

Prayer: Annette Canar

Communion: N/A

Fellowship: R. Johnsons & R. Stovers

Serving Next Sunday (7/23/23)

Ushers:??—sign up on the clipboard

Reader: Stacie Williams

Prayer:??—sign up on the clipboard

Communion: N/A

Fellowship: M. Johnsons (Coffee Only)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Family of Pam Amundson (sister of Brian Welder), Walter James Amundson (Mary Amundson’s great-grandson), Mark Sletten, Family of Gene Swanson, Ron Petsinger, Betty Olson, Family of Sandy & Clint Lein, Dillon Norman (USM), Pr. Rena Peterson, OSLC Call Committee, Cindy Olson, Bonnie Olson, Marv Jemtrud, David Barnett (relative of Robert Stover), Arlene Lilja, Donna Willoughby (daughter of Gordon Peterson), LaVonne Jacobson, David Sletten (cousin to Camilla Stover), Robbie Leake

CALENDAR

Today, 7/16/2023

9:00am—Worship

10:00am—Fellowship

2:00pm-4:00pm—Polka Music & Ice Cream Social on the Museum lawn

Tuesday – Thursday, 7/18-7/20

5:00pm-7:30pm—OSLC VBS (Vacation Bible School)

Next Sunday, 7/23/2023—8th Sun of Pent.

9:00am—Worship—in the fellowship hall

10:00am—Fellowship

Every day:

An opportunity to show we are Christians by our love.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Mission of the Month for: Jul-Aug:** Kids Closet
- **Noisy offering:**
Collected on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for the mission of the month(s).
- **Gramma’s Gang 2023 Fundraiser:** Sunday, July 23rd; 11:30 – 1:30pm Living Faith Free Lutheran Church. (Donation for the MN/ND Alzheimer’s Association); Tacos & Ice Cream
- **OSLC VBS (Vacation Bible School):** 5pm-7:30pm: July 18-20.

Parable of the Sower
Faith Types

			
Faith Blinders	Faith Rocky	Faith Rebel	Remaining Faith
Value of God’s Message not understood, and is disregarded.	Contentment in surface faith in God, skips dedication to depth needed to stand firm.	Destructively allows worldly priorities to compete with faith in God as primary.	Enduring faith in Jesus, fruitfully understands and practices God’s Word.

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