



A sower  
went out  
to sow

MATTHEW 13:3

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 12, 2020

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
(419) 625-2192 [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)  
Park/Parking Lot Worship 9:00 am      Zoom Worship 10:30 a.m.

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July 12, 2020    Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**If in Strickfaden parking lot, please turn your car radio to 101.7 FM to listen to our worship service at 9 AM. This signal is only 1500 feet. You can also join us on Zoom for worship at 10:30 AM.**

Welcome to Worship. 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,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us

again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your

sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

## Gathering Hymn

*“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*

ELW

533

Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!

Thou my faith increase and quicken,  
let me keep thy gift divine;  
howsoe'er temptations thicken,  
may thy word still o'er me shine  
as my guiding star through life,  
as my comfort in all strife.

## Greeting

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

*2 Corinthians 13:13*

And also with you.

## Canticle of Praise

### *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 God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

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*

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*

## 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

## Psalm 65:[1-8], 9-13

- <sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
- <sup>2</sup>To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.
- <sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.
- <sup>4</sup>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.
- <sup>5</sup>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.
- <sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.
- <sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- <sup>8</sup>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.
- ] <sup>9</sup>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.
- <sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- <sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- <sup>12</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

<sup>13</sup>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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

## **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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.”

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

ELW 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.  
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.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

### Praying this week’s prayer requests

Prayer requests can be emailed to [stacylauer@gmail.com](mailto:stacylauer@gmail.com), texted to 419-680-0358, or mailed to the church.

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always  
And also with you.

## **Offering**

We give back to God what God first gives us. Offering can be mailed in to the church at 106 Scheid Road, Sandusky OH 44870, by texting give to 614-389-9681, or given on our church website.

## **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.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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**

## **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 Hymn**

*"On What Has Now Been Sown"*

ELW 550

On what has now been sown  
your blessing, Lord, bestow;  
the pow'r is yours alone

to make it sprout and grow.  
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,  
and yours alone shall be the praise!

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Oh, grant that each of us,  
now met before you here,  
may meet together thus  
when you and yours appear,  
and follow you to heav'n, our home.  
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:  
***“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”***  
**And a congregation of the**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

**PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS**

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor  
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday  
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

Church: 419-625-2192  
Cell: 419-680-0358  
419-433-4530

E-mail: [Sandy8110@gmail.com](mailto:Sandy8110@gmail.com)

Morgan Noon, Organist  
Website: [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)

[www.flame-elca.com](http://www.flame-elca.com)

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**Endowment Grant Applications** are now being accepted for 2021. Due to the pandemic, please contact a member of the endowment team and they will be glad to mail you an application. The requests need to be presented to the Endowment committee no later than October 15, 2020. You can mail the application back to the church, put your request in the endowment mailbox in the basement or present it to any member of the committee. The committee members are John Miller, Mary K Schlessman, Jeff Justi, Bob Stacy, Dale Osbun, Ron Zorn, Pastor Stacy and Kevin Young. If you have any questions, please see a member of the endowment committee.