

*Introduction to the day: 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.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.*

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### **OPENING SONG/PRELUDE**

*Our God is Greater* ©Chris Tomlin

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

### **WELCOME**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.*

# GATHERING SONG *Seed, Scattered and Sown*

©Dan Feiten

## REFRAIN

$\text{♩} = 107$  C G/B Am Am/G F G C2 F G

Seed, scat - tered and sown, wheat gath - ered and grown, bread, bro - ken and

6 C G/B Am Dm7 Gsus G C G/B Am Am/G F G

shared as one, the Liv - ing Bread of God. Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our

12 C2 F G C G/B Am Dm7 C/E F G C

hands, one cup that is shared by all; the Liv - ing Cup, the Liv - ing Bread of God.

## VERSES

18 *Fine* Am G/A C F G C Dm G7sus G9 C

1. Is not the bread we break a shar - ing in our Lord?  
2. The seed which falls on rock will with - er and will die.  
3. As wheat up - on the hills was gath - ered and was grown,

23 E Am/E E7 Am G F C/E Dm7 Gsus G D.C.

Is not the cup we bless the Blood of Christ out - poured?  
The seed with - in good ground will flow - er and have life.  
So may the church of God be gath - ered in - to one.

## 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.**

## KYRIE

*Kyrie*

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Words and music on following page

Leader

In peace, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

2

Leader

For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer- cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For peace in the world,  
for the health of God's church,  
and for all unity, let us pray  
to the Lord

3

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For this holy house,  
and we who offer praise, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer cy,  
Christ have mer- cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,  
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
A - - - - men

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
 Wor- thy is the  
 Lamb who was slain  
 His blood to set us free  
 Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord  
 Serve the Lord for e-ver.  
 Po- wer, rich- es,  
 wis- dom, strength  
 Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry

All be-long to God on high.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
 Sing with all God's  
 ho-ly peo-ple  
 Join the hy-mn of  
 all cre-a-tion  
 Bless-ing, hon-or,  
 glo-ry, mi-ght  
 Be to God and the  
 Lamb for-ev-er  
 A-men! A-men!

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 For the Lamb who once was slain  
 Has be-gun his reign forev-er.  
 A - - - - - men!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(ELW p. 142)

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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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## FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13 (Jeri Wartena)

*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.*

*A reading from Isaiah.*

- <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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13 (Jeri Wartena)

- <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

(Jeri Wartena)

*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.*

*A reading from Romans.*

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **KIDS' MESSAGE**

(Pr. Allen Dunn)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel.*

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

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*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.**

<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.”

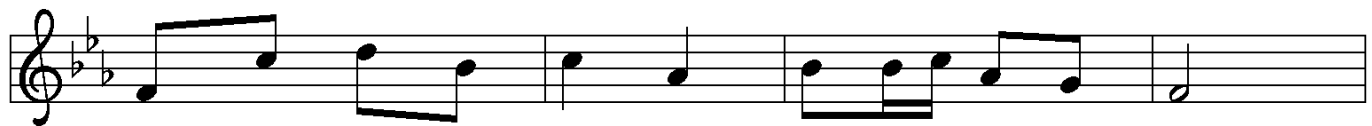
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Now the Green Blade Rises* (ELW 379)



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world this Pentecost Season and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.**

*Please be seated*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Jeri Wartena)

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God (*especially*). Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Prayer requests provided by congregation members to be added here by reader.*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**



## PEACE (ELW p. 143)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING

We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us. Thank you so much for your continued support.

*The congregation is invited to stand for the song as offerings are brought to altar.*

### OFFERING SONG

*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*

(ELW 184)



Let the vine - yards be  
fruit - ful O Lord;  
Fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing.  
Ga - ther a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, That  
we may be fed with the  
bread of life. Ga - ther the  
hopes and dreams of all;



U - nite them with the prayers we  
off - er. Grace our - ta - ble  
with your pre - sence O Lord  
And give us a taste of the  
feast to come.



## **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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts. **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please have a seat and follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the usher.*

## **COMMUNION** (ELW p. 146)

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

# SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed ✝ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

## SENDING SONG *Holy* ©Bretnon Brown

**VERSE**  
♩ = 100 D

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God Al - might - y who was and is to come.

4 Dmaj7 D

God of glo - ry, You're so wor - thy. All the saints bow

**VERSE**  
8 Dmaj7 D

down. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, God Al - might - y, who was and is to come.

12 Dmaj7 D *Last time to Coda*

God of glo - ry, You're so wor - thy. All the saints bow

**CHORUS 1a**  
16 Dmaj7 D A A/G D

down. Ho - ly is Your name in all the earth. Right - eous are Your ways,

19 A A/G D A A/G D

so mer - ci - ful. Ev - 'ry - thing You've done is just and true. Ho - ly, ho -

I

G A D G A D

ly God are You. Ho - ly, ho - ly God are You.

**CHORUS 1a**

(1) | 2

D A A/G D

You. Ho - ly is Your name in all the earth. Right - eous are Your ways,

A A/G D A A/G D

so mer - ci - ful. Ev - 'ry - thing You've done is just and true. Ho - ly, ho -

**BRIDGE**

G A D G A Bm A

ly God are You. Ho - ly, ho - ly God. All bless - ing, all hon - or

G D Dsus D Bm A D Dsus

be - longs to You. All pow - er, all wis - dom is Yours.

**CHORUS 1b**

D D A G

All bless - ing. Ho - ly is Your name in all the earth.

D A G D

Right - eous are Your ways, so mer - ci - ful. Ev - 'ry - thing You've done

A G D G A D

is just and true. Ho - ly, ho - ly God are You. Ho - ly is Your name

(2)

D G A D D5 D.C. al Coda

You. Ho - ly, ho - ly God are You.

D Dmaj7

63 Coda

down.

*Please be seated.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*After **brief announcements** related to the ministry of Bethel  
are shared from the podium **microphone**,  
the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God and we will.**

