



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship  
July 16, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY.  
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



***Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170  
734.453.5252 [www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)***

**ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION** – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

**OFFERING** – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info)

**A WORD TO OUR GUESTS** – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

**Large Print Bulletins** – Available from an usher.

**Listening Assistance Devices** – Available at the Sound Booth.

**Parent Room** – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

**For Children** – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

**As We Gather** – Though you may be familiar with Jesus’ parable of the sower, you may be surprised to hear that you do not really know it yet! That’s because on the one hand, the Word of God does not change. Yet on the other hand, we need to keep hearing it again and again, because our circumstances are constantly changing. The parable of the sower tells of this mystery. The seed is God’s Word, God’s work of planting repentance and faith in ears who hear. We may think of the various kinds of soil Jesus mentions to be various sorts of people. Actually, however, He is describing each individual in their changing circumstances. There are times when we are “good soil,” that is, we understand God’s Word and take comfort in it. There are other times, however, when we either cannot or will not hear it. Sometimes we become hard paths, rocky or distracted by worries or fears. For this reason, God never ceases planting, speaking, and growing faith in the heart, and we return repeatedly to continue hearing, reading, learning, and receiving God’s Word because He never gives up on you.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation and Opening Sentences**

*Titus 3:3–7*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

**P** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures,  
**C passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.**

**P** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

**C He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy,**

- P** by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**  
**P** so that being justified by His grace  
**C** **we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

## Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed Be Your Name in the land that is plentiful  
 Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name  
 Blessed Be Your name when I'm found in the desert place  
 Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed Be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise  
 When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say

**CHORUS: *Blessed be the name of the Lord***  
***Blessed be Your name***  
***Blessed be the name of the Lord***  
***Blessed be Your glorious name***

Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me  
 When the world's all as it should be Blessed be Your name  
 Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering  
 Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise  
 When the darkness closes in Lord still I will say **CHORUS**

*You give and take away You give and take away*  
*My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name*  
*You give and take away You give and take away*  
*My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name*

**CHORUS**

CCLI Song # 3798438 Beth Redman/Matt Redman  
 © 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)  
 CCLI License # 140952

## Confession and Absolution

- P** In that divine hope, let us confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You by not letting You have Your way with us. We have become deaf to Your Word. Because of our weak love for You and for our neighbor, we have become fruitless trees deserving only Your judgment. Therefore, we return to You today asking Your forgiveness and for the strengthening of our faith and love. By Your Word, restore us and renew us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing; upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**

## Grace Flows Down

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
Amazing love now flowing down  
From hands and feet  
that were nailed to the tree  
Grace flows down and covers me

***CHORUS: It covers me  
It covers me  
It covers me  
And covers me***

David E. Bell, Louie Giglio, Rod Padgett  
CCU Song #1223050  
© 2000 sixsteps Music; worshiptogether.com songs  
For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.cclu.com  
CCU License #140952

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you. **G And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 55:10–13*

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing,  
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 make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **G Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 65:9–13*

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

**<sup>10</sup>You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

**<sup>12</sup>The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,**

<sup>13</sup>the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

## Epistle

*Romans 8:12–17*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Apostles’ Creed

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Gradual and Verse

*Romans 11:33, 36; Isaiah 40:8*

**P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**C** **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

**P** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**C** **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

**P** Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades,

**C** **but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter. **C** **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>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

<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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like  
 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This  
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The  
 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -



seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of  
 ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in  
 ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a  
 giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the



heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
 ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.  
 hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.  
 truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

### Sermon – “The Parable of the Sower”

#### Almighty Father, Bless the Word



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your  
 2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious  
 now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!  
 wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.

**Offering – ONLINE GIVING** available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://www.RisenChrist.info) – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.



△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray.

We praise You, O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord. All the earth worships You, our Creator and Redeemer. By Your mighty Word, all things live and move and have their being. We praise You for Your creation. But with even greater praise, we give thanks for Your re-creating Word by which You have conquered sin and death, restoring earth's beauty and eternal life to all who believe. Cause Your Word to be received and believed by all people, giving everyone Your new life through faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**MEN** – For the glorious company of the apostles, the fellowship of the prophets, and the evangelists of Your Gospel, we give You thanks. Give conviction and strength to all today whom You have called and ordained to proclaim Your Word to this generation, and bring forth the fruits of faith and love in all those renewed by Your Word and Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**WOMEN** – God bless our native land with freedom and wisdom to acknowledge Your Holy Word as the only sure foundation of governance in line with Your grace, wisdom, and will. Raise up servant leaders to guard, guide, and protect all citizens of our country in the way of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**ALL** – As You promise Your own healing peace and comfort for Your people, so surround all who suffer any need, sickness, or adversity. Grant that their faith never fail and their prayers never cease. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** As the washing of water with Your Word in Holy Baptism raises us to new life now by faith, so give the confidence of the resurrection to eternal life to all. We give thanks for all who have departed in faith and now rest from their labors. Keep us in the wisdom and confidence of faith in the Word of our Lord Jesus who said, “everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:26). Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

## Lord’s Prayer

**C** **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.**

## On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;  
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**Acknowledgments—Do Not Remove**  
Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.  
Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Acknowledgments**  
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.