

Sunday, July 23, 2023
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

Service Theme

THE CHRISTIAN IS PLANTED BY THE WORD

Planting seed by hand can seem magical. In your hand the seed looks insignificant and lifeless. Yet you put the seed into the soil, and the natural process of life begins. All by itself, the seed germinates and sprouts and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds and often only some, perhaps just a small amount, will sprout. As these few sprouts grow, birds and pests and weeds and weather attack. The reality is that once the seed leaves your hand, you are at the mercy of forces beyond your control. Today, God uses that experience from nature to explain the supernatural process by which God calls humans to faith through the gospel. The Christian is planted by the Word. The Christian can plant the seed of the gospel into the soil of another's heart. What happens after that is completely beyond our control. Yet God promises us that his Word always accomplishes his good purposes. God's Word is powerful, all on its own, without our help.



1 De - lay not! De - lay not! O sin - ner, draw near!
 2 De - lay not! De - lay not, O sin - ner, to come,
 3 De - lay not! De - lay not! The Spir - it of grace,
 4 De - lay not! De - lay not! The hour is at hand;
 5 De - lay not! De - lay not! Why long - er a - buse



The wa - ters of life are now flow - ing for you.
 For mer - cy still lin - gers and calls you to - day.
 Long grieved and re - sist - ed, may take his sad flight
 The earth will dis - solve, and the heav - ens will fade.
 The love and com - pas - sion of Je - sus, your God?



No price is de - mand - ed; the Sav - ior is here.
 Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
 And leave you in dark - ness to fin - ish your race,
 The dead, small and great, in the Judg - ment must stand—
 A foun - tain is o - pened—how can you re - fuse?



Re - demp - tion is pur - chased; God's prom - ise is true.
 Its mes - sage, un - heed - ed, will soon pass a - way.
 To sink in the gloom of e - ter - ni - ty's night.
 What pow'r, then, O sin - ner, can lend you its aid?
 Come, wash and be cleansed in his par - don - ing blood.

Order of Service:
 Service of the Word (p.38)

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Confession of Sins

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give us strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer and Praise

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: *(Sing)* **Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
Your faithfulness continues forever.
Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

Prayer of the Day

M: 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 55:6-11 EHV

God's Word always works—a seed that produces the fruit that God earnestly desires.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found!

Call on him while he is near!

⁷Let the wicked man abandon his way.

Let an evil man abandon his thoughts.

Let him turn to the LORD,
and he will show him mercy.

Let him turn to our God,
because he will abundantly pardon.

⁸Certainly my plans are not your plans,

and your ways are not my ways,
declares the LORD.

⁹Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so my ways are higher than your ways,

and my plans are higher than your plans.

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.

Psalm 65


(p.89)

Refrain



The earth is full of the good-ness of
God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone



Praise awaits you, O God,*
you call forth songs of joy.

You care for the land and water it;*
you soften it with showers and bless
its crops.

The streams of God are filled with
water*
to provide the people with grain.

Refrain

You crown the year with your bounty,*
and your carts overflow with
abundance.

The grasslands of the desert overflow;*
the hills are clothed with gladness.

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with
grain;*
they shout for joy and sing.

**Glory be to the Father and to the
Son***

**and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 3:5-11 EHV

We sow the seed of God's Word, but only God can make that seed grow.

⁵What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are ministers through whom you believed, and each served as the Lord gave him his role. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷So then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but it is God who causes the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters are united, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹For God is the one whom we serve as coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰In keeping with the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. But let each person be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹In fact, no one can lay any other foundation than the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia. (Isaiah 55:11)

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 EHV

Jesus pictures ministry as a sower scattering seed to all with no regard for where it might land.

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ²A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. ⁸But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."
¹⁸"So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²²The 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. ²³But 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."

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast Like
 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man This
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
 4 When - e'er 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 right - eous 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 Text & Theme

Isaiah 55:10-11

“Absolutely Unequivocally ESSENTIAL!”

Apostles Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

From there 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.**

Prayer of the Church

(Page 42)

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

322

On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Your blessing, Lord, be -
2 To you our wants are known; From you are all our
3 Oh, grant that each of us Now met be - fore you



stow; The pow'r is yours a - lone To make it
pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own And par - don
here May meet to - geth - er thus When you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -
yours ap - pear And fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise And you a - lone shall have the praise!
ceive And to your Word a bless - ing give.
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Announcements

Pastor will be on Vacation from July 17-27.

Church Cleaners:

July 30 – Thomas // August 6 – Phillip

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (23)	9:30 am	Worship (No Communion)
Tu (25)	6:00 pm 7:00 om	Elders Meeting Council Meeting
Su (30)	9:30 am 11:45 am 10:45 am 3:00 pm	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class Worship with Holy Communion in Poltimore
Th (3)	10:30 am	Longfield Manor Devotion
Su (6)	9:30 am 11:45 am 10:45 am	Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Bible Class



Divine Word

Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629

www.divinewordottawa.ca