



**St. John Lutheran Church ELCA**  
**Waseca, MN**

Sunday, July 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*Service of the Word*

**GATHERING**

**Introduction**

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. Our first lesson from Ephesians reminds us that this is a gift from God. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross is a sign of this gift, given to us for a restored relationship to God, for the power to bear good fruit for the sake of the world, and for hope when we are dying.

**Prelude**

(Please Stand)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer for the Nation**

Pastor John Omans

**Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 100)**

*P: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.*

**C: Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

*P: Why? Who is the LORD that we should praise him?*

**C: Know that the LORD is God.**

*P: It is he that made us, and we are his;*

**C: we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

*P: Help us always to remember this, O Lord!*

**C: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,**

*P: and his courts with praise.*

**C: Give thanks to him, bless his name.**

*P: Why give thanks to the LORD? I think you know!*

**C: For the LORD is good;**

*P: his steadfast love endures forever,*

**C: and his faithfulness to all generations.**

**Opening Hymn:** (cranberry) #887 **This Is My Song**

**Prayer of the Day**

*P: The Lord be with you*

**C: And also with you**

*P: Let us pray:*

*P: Almighty God,*

**C: 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.**

**Hymn of Praise** (cranberry) #888 **O Beautiful for Spacious Skies**

(Please be seated)

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**First Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R The Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

**Gospel Acclamation** (cranberry) **pg. 205**

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.*

*Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia!*

*Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.*

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Mark 4:1-9**

*Both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news of the gospel. Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

<sup>1</sup>Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup>He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching, he said to them: <sup>3</sup>Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." <sup>9</sup>And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

**Hymn (cranberry) #813 Faith of Our Fathers**

**Children's Message** (*Children may come to the front*)

**Message Resuscitating an Iguana** Pastor John Omans

**Message Song** (cranberry) #508 **As Rain from the Clouds**

**Confession and Forgiveness** (cranberry) **pg. 94**

(Please Stand)

**Apostles' Creed pg. 105**

**The Prayers**

*P: Hear us, O God; your mercy is great.*

**C: Sing (cranberry) #751 O Lord, hear my prayer**

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.*

**The Peace**

*P The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C And also with you.**

*P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.*

*(We share Christ's Peace)*

(please be seated)

## THANKSGIVING

**Stewardship Minute**

*P: It is amazing what a small offering, and a little generosity can accomplish. On Thursday, July 7, we will be assembling fabric kits for Lutheran World Relief. A few examples of how these fabric kits are helping around the world was included in our July Lifeline. Here are two:*

*\*Families in **BURKINA FASO** use the fabric and thread to mend their clothing and extend the life of their limited wardrobes.*

*\***MALI**, vocational training centers teach young women and girls to sew as a means of earning an income, building a brighter future for themselves and their families.*

**Offering Invitation (Noisy Offering)**

(please stand until the end of service)

**Offering Prayer**

*P: Blessed are you,*

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Lord's Prayer Pg. 112

*P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*  
**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name...**

### SENDING

### Blessing

*P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.*

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** (cranberry) #890 **Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory**

### Dismissal

*P Go in peace. Christ is with you.*  
**C Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

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### Leaders in the Service

**Pastor:** John Omans

**Organist:** Jan Macklay

**Ushers:** Diane Blowers, Melvina Conrath

**Acolyte:** Jack Kuhns

**Reader:** Sam Macklay

**Church Council:** Rhonda Behsmann

**Videographer:** Marcia & Dennis Bartz

**Facebook Live:** Curt Yess

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering  
their time and talents.**

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