

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

We begin now to read for three Sundays in a row the third of the Great Discourses of Matthew: the Parables of Jesus. This Sunday the Gospel is the Parable of the Sower. Together with your congregation, if you are able, **join in prayer at 10am on Sunday**, using one of the many available ways, to let the seed of the word of God fall into your life again.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020**

Our Common Prayer at Home

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video.

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah:

¹⁰For 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,
¹¹so 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.

¹²For 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.
¹³Instead 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.

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:
Music may be found at:*

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200712/playlist>

PSALM 65:9-13

⁹You 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.
¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**
¹¹You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.
¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.**
¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- |
selves with grain;
let them shout for | joy and sing.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans:

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: sending God's own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For

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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through this Spirit dwelling in you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And in the sowing, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the dominion of heaven 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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.

Having read these readings, think of this:

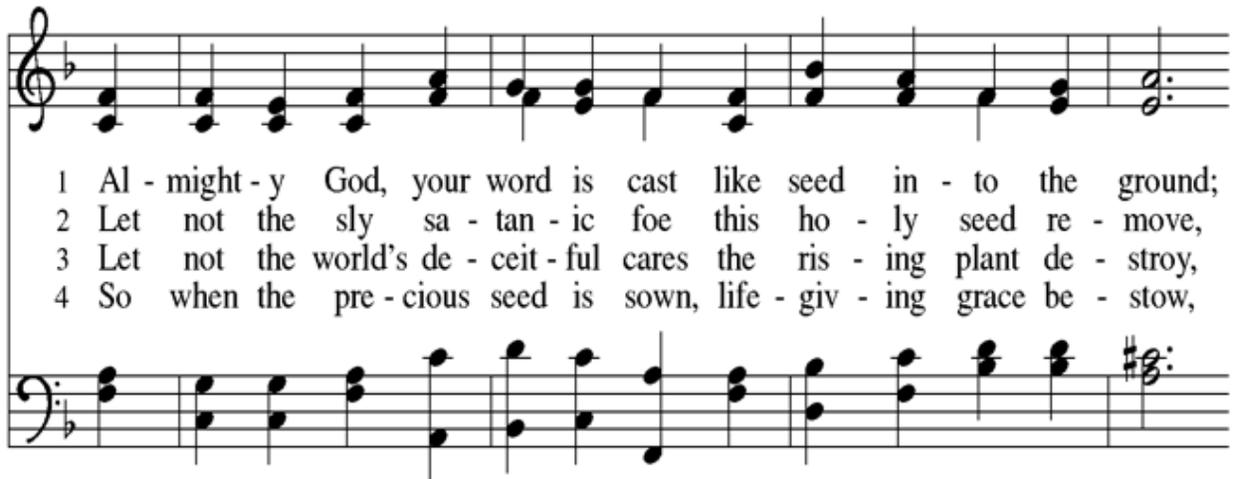
First, simply listen to the parable itself (vss. 1-9): the dominion of God is like someone sowing seed in a very hard place, a place impossible for growing, full of death. Yet, against all expectation, astonishing growth takes place, yielding a great harvest. That image gives us a way to talk about Jesus' death and resurrection and its meaning for us. We live in a hard place and a hard time. And we ourselves are full of death. Jesus shares our death, yet he becomes the source and beginning of the great harvest. Because of him, the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead comes down on us like rain. We and all the earth are being made to live and sing. Then, second, use the explanation (vss. 18-23) to join the parable yourself: by God's mercy, receive the life-giving word as if you were good soil; listen to the word of God, the gospel, and bear a harvest of love for your neighbor. The very trees will clap their hands.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Sixth Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200712/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200712/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #516

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

Then pray these intercessions:

Praying separately in our homes yet united in the Spirit, let us together intercede for all the needs of the world. In response to each bid, you are invited to offer your own prayers, silently or aloud, and to conclude each petition with the words “Your mercy is everlasting.”

We pray for our congregation and for all the churches in Arlington.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for missionaries and for newly planted congregations around the world.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for those Christians for whom growth in faith is difficult.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for farms and fields that are devastated by drought.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for all animals in search of water.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for everyone who is suffering from the heat.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for the government of our country, state, and county.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for our society to be purged of racism.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for those without jobs or health care.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for medical workers and researchers.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for all who are sick: for Don Hanson, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, and Jack Mulloy.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray for all who are burdened by anxiety.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We pray, each of us, for ourselves.

Take time for prayer.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

We thank God for Nathan Söderblom, whom we commemorate today, for all who were dedicated to ecumenism, and for all who have died in the faith.

Take time for praise.

O God, rain down your mercy on us: **your mercy is everlasting.**

O merciful God, receive these prayers, and grant us your Spirit of peace and joy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at

HYMN # 726

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a weary world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a weary world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into the darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of the world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 92. **Tuesday** Ephesians 4:17-5:2. **Wednesday** Proverbs 11:23-30.

Thursday Psalm 86:11-17. **Friday** (commemoration of Bartolomé de las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566) Hebrews 6:13-20. **Saturday** Matthew 7:15-20.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 44:6-8 *or* Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.