

THE PARABLES OF LENT

R E C E I V E J U S T I F I C A T I O N

THE PARABLE *of the* SOWER *and the* SEED

Welcome to Week One in The Parables of Lent series of services, which is based on the parable of the sower and the seed. In this parable, the seed that falls on fertile soil takes root and grows, while seeds in other soils fail.

Opening Hymn: LSB #685 vs 1-3

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth here-after.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.

Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, there to live with You on high.

P In this holy season the Son of God humbles himself so that we receive mercy.

C **Humble me once again, O God, that my life would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

P In this holy season the Son of God spreads the seed of his Word over our hearts.

C **Make our hearts the good soil, O God, that receives your Word and produces fruit that lasts.**

P In this holy season the Son of God enters into his Passion and death so that we are exalted.

C **Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

We Sing: (Tune LSB # 685)

Let us listen to our Savior as his parables unfold,
Learning what he has to teach us, bearing fruit a hundredfold.
May the vast world's cares and pleasures,
Doubts and lies from Satan heard,
Never turn us from the Word. As this seed is sown among us,
May our ears and hearts be found to be fresh and fruitful ground.

Confession and Absolution

P Our hearts are not always fertile ground for the planting of the Word of God. Let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives to our Lord who hears and forgives:

C **Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. Our hearts are too often the "path" where Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown. Our hearts are too often the**

“rocky ground” where trial and difficulty make us fall away. Our hearts are too often the “thorns” that choke God’s Word and keep it from being fruitful. Our hearts are sinful and selfish, pushing away the grace of God and growing only sin and deceit. Forgive us, most holy God.

P The Lord Jesus came into this world with a heart that was perfect soil. He never sinned and always adhered to the Word of his Heavenly Father. His perfect life, crushing crucifixion and glorious resurrection mean complete forgiveness for the sins of our hearts and lives. Because his heart and life were “perfect soil” for us, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Sing: LSB #577

“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

Almighty God, Your Word is cast like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav’n descend and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe this holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev’ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world’s deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundred fold the fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown, life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive its saving pow’r may know.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament: Jeremiah 7:1-7 (Lg. print pg. 1184; Reg. print pg. 620)

Epistle: Colossians 1:3-14 (Lg. print pg. 1828; Reg. print pg. 953)

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23 (Lg. print pg. 1520; Reg. print pg. 794)

Sermon Hymn: (Tune LSB #424)

We listen as the Word like scattered seed is sown,
For as each parable is heard Christ's kingdom is made known.

On soil of every kind the precious seed we sow
That in good soil the Word might find a place to thrive and grow.

In ev'ry time of need, before the judgment throne,
Your work, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your merits, not my own.

Sermon

Offering

Special Music: "He Looked Beyond My Fault"
Aunnee Trampe

Prayers

P God of the good soil, prevent our hearts from becoming concrete sidewalks, rocky ground, or thorny patches. Instead make them into fertile soil that understands your Word and bears fruit that lasts. Sower of the seeds,

C **make your Word take root and grow.**

P God of the good soil, make your church the place where the seed of your Word always finds fertile soil. As it falls freely, strengthen the faith of all hearts and souls who hear, and keep them in that same faith to life everlasting. Sower of the seeds,

C **make your Word take root and grow.**

P God of the good soil, in the ministry of your Son, Jesus, he used the words of his mouth to heal those who were ill and bring wholeness to those who were in need. Please use that very same Word to bring health and wholeness to those in need near and dear to us. Sower of the seeds,

C make your Word take root and grow.

P Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **All: Amen**

Closing Hymn: LSB #878 verses 1 and 6

“Abide With Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord abide with me

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Lenten services continue each Wednesday March 3 - March 24 at 7:00 pm

Note Schedule changes to Wednesday evening activities:

6:00 – 7:00 pm – OSKids

6:00-6:45 pm – Adult Choir Rehearsal

Confirmation Classes meets at 6:00 pm

Senior Youth meets at 7:00 pm