

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



July 16, 2023

Experiencing Christ's Love

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Welcome and Greeting

(Please Stand)

Call to Worship

P O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

P This is the day the Lord has made!

C **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

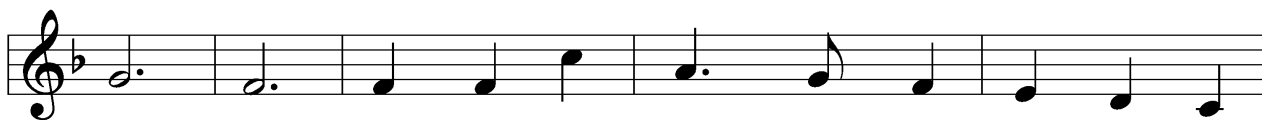
P We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen!**

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuertten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

P If God is for us, who is against us? He who gave his own Son, now gives us the Spirit and power! The Holy One is in our midst, but we know our failures and that we are far from being holy. God invites us into his presence. So, we come to our Lord in humility to confess our sins, and God meets us with mercy.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination)

Prayer of Confession

P If we confess our sins, God is faithful and will cleanse us. Let us pray.

C **Loving Father, there is more to life than we can grasp, yet how often we try to shrink the mystery of your Spirit, or limit what is possible by your grace. Your Spirit is always blowing new life into our days, surprising us with wonder and blessing. Forgive us for dull awareness, resistance to your will, and for being hesitant to share your saving work in our lives. Cleanse us and make us new once again. Thank you for your love for us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

P God has had mercy on us. Because God has lavished his love on us in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. He sends his Holy Spirit and fills us with peace. We are more than conquerors; we are forgiven!

C **Praise God, we are set free! We are redeemed by your mercy and grace!**

(Please be seated)

Video Hymn of Praise "Redeemed" by Big Daddy Weave

Prayer

Isaiah 55:10–13

“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,
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.
“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.
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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

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

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

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 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, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

"Hear then the parable of the sower: 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 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. 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. 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.

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

Apostles' Creed

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 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.

(Please be seated)

523 O Word of God Incarnate



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav-ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang-ing, O Light of our dark sky:
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.
Mid mists and rocks and quick-sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON: "LETTING RESULTS GO" MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

(Please Stand)

783 Take My Life and Let It Be

sts. 1, 4–5



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;
5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no long - er mine;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy roy - al throne.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Congregation

P Lord, in your mercy

C hear our prayer.

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

(Please remain standing)

Words of Institution

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated)

Holy Communion

Communion Video: "Beautiful Savior" by Stacy Plays Hymns

Continuous Distribution by Pastor

(Family units will come forward to receive the elements and take them to their seats.
Please wait to eat and drink until instructed)

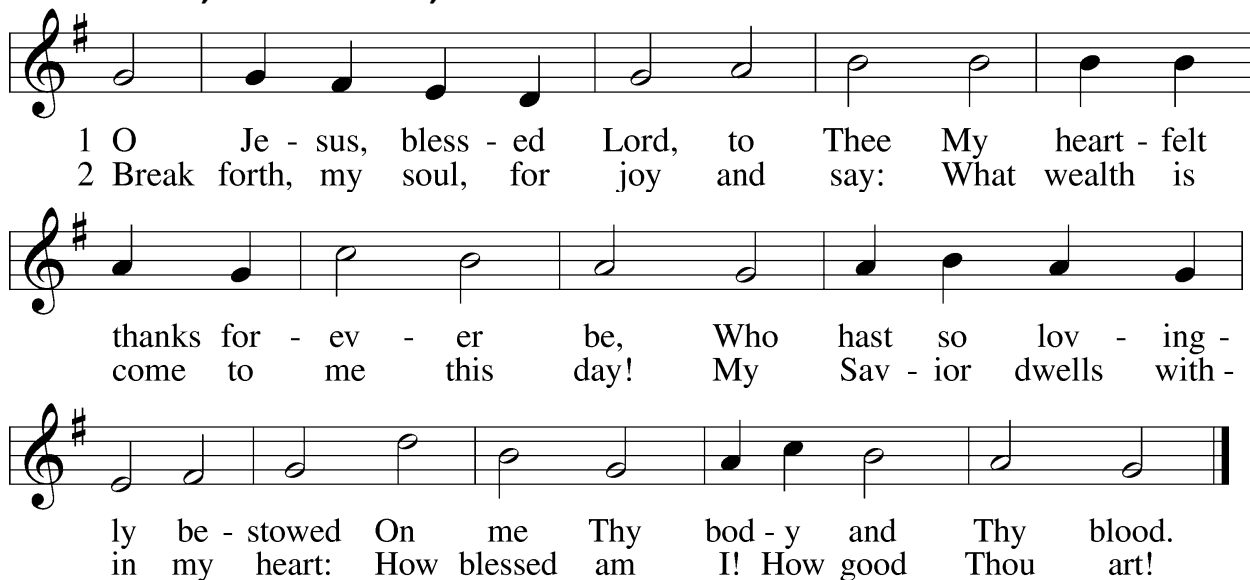
All receive the Sacrament together

(Pastor will indicate when to take the wafer and the cup.)



(Please stand)

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

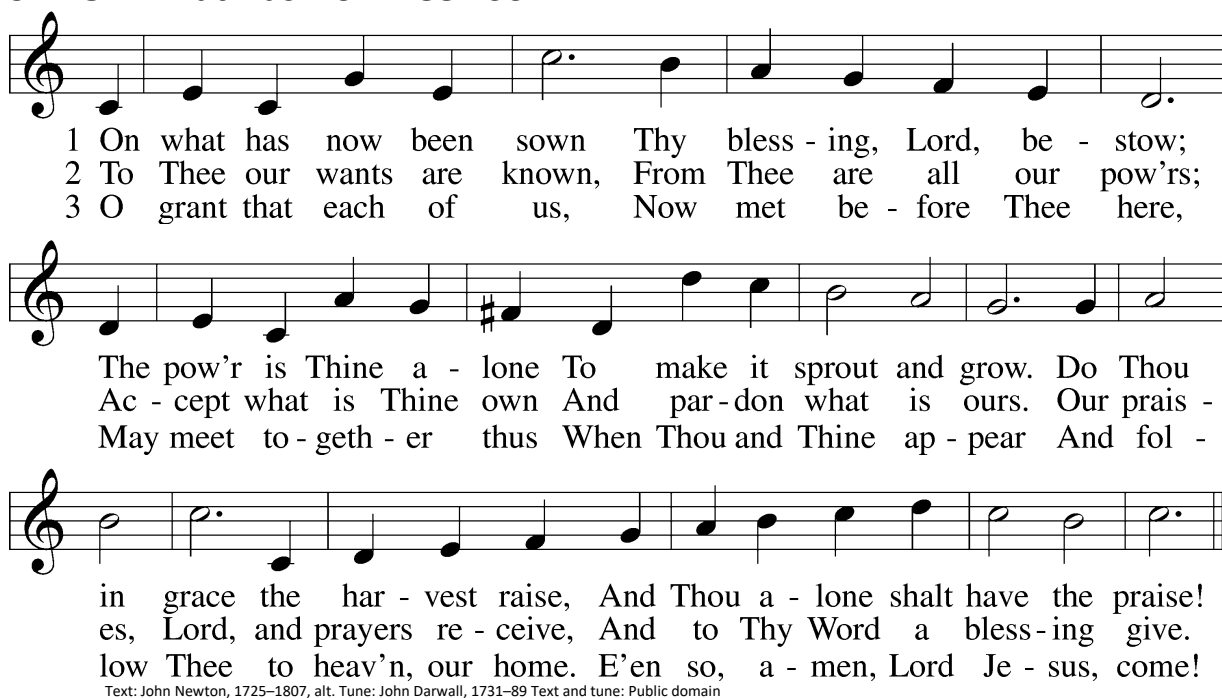


1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -
ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Arthur J. Mason, 1851–1928 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

921 On What Has Now Been Sown



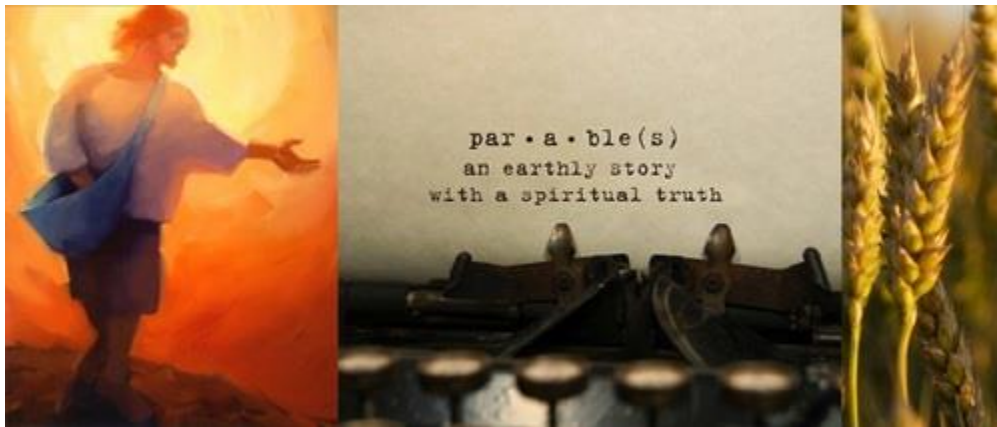
1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,
The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our 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!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89 Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in Peace, Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!



Acknowledgments

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