

*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, July 15, 2017

5:30 pm

Holy Communion

Interim Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoover

Interim: Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile

Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994

[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** –Copies of Scripture readings for the month of December, Gospel Messages for Advent, Christ in Our Home (large print) devotions and The Word in Season devotions are located on the table in the back, next to the prayer box.

**For your convenience** there is a cry room for infants, equipped with changing table and supplies, a crib, rocking chairs, blankets, and toys. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex, turn right down the hallway, and it is the last room on the left.

## **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. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The assembly stands.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the abundant and steadfast love of God in Christ Jesus, emboldened and called by the power of the Holy Spirit, and trusting in the healing and forgiveness of the God who is Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit let us confess our sin.

*(Kneel or Stand) Silence is kept for reflection.*

Just and gracious God,

**you call us into the freedom of light and life in your presence,  
yet we choose the darkness and bondage of sin.**

**Our lives bear the wounds of that sin,**

**the sin of our own action,**

**unholy thoughts, unholy words, unholy deeds,**

**and the sin of our own inaction,**

**injustice ignored, kindness not done, humility not shown.**

**Heal the wounds of our sin, forgive us, renew us, free us.**

**Let the power of your Holy Spirit reign over us,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

People of God:

When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **GREETING**

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

### **KYRIE**

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. . . .

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

## **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:10-13**

A reading from Isaiah, the 55<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.}*

<sup>10</sup>For 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,  
<sup>11</sup>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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For 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.

<sup>13</sup>Instead 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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:1-11**

A reading from Romans the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.}*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For 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. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For 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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But 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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.}*

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

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom 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. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet 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. <sup>22</sup>As 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. <sup>23</sup>But 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.**

**SERMON**

Silence for reflection may follow.

The assembly stands.

Together we confess our faith:

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the mending of God's world.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we give thanks for your living word that goes out and does not return empty. Make your church a partner in accomplishing what you desire.

Unite us in faith, witness, and mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For land, creatures, and people suffering from drought, that gentle rain bring life and hope. For mountains, hills, and the trees of the field, that all creation clap for joy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For nations suffering the violence and hunger of war (*especially*). For exiles and refugees. Lead them home in peace and bless them with your fullness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For victims and perpetrators of race-based crime. For all who suffer sorrow, illness, or injury (*especially*). Bring them justice, healing, and new life by the power of your Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For this congregation and its leaders; through our shared work, let your word prosper among us and bring life to the community beyond our doors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for all who have died recently, for strangers and dear ones who have blessed our lives and sparked our hope (*especially*). Give comfort and confidence to all who mourn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

The assembly stands.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:

out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have  
eternal life.

It was your Son Jesus

who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death  
on the cross for us and for our salvation.

There, on that cross,

He willingly offered Himself up as a full,  
perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

By that gift of love and grace

we are your people,  
born of water and word,  
served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table  
and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves  
as disciples who follow  
as witnesses to the world  
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.

**Amen, come Lord Jesus.**

On the night in which He was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:  
Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is the new covenant  
in my blood, shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **QUIET MEDITATION**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Undeterred Sower**

Near the edge of the Sea of Galilee rest the ruins of the little fishing village of Capernaum. Ancient olive presses and grinding stones linger among black stone footprints of villagers' homes (including, many believe, Peter's) and the remnants of Capernaum's synagogue. Rising from the village is an unremarkable hillside. Jesus knew the place well.

Today, if you can find your way through a rusted gate, a twisting, dusty, hard-worn path reveals itself on that hill beside the sea. Camouflaged by untamed thistles and shrubs, it meanders along stony ground accented with twenty-first-century litter. Birds perch beneath unsteady shade on scaly limbs of scrubby trees. Small patches of coppery-green grain fields wave in muggy breezes.

It takes very little effort to imagine Jesus using the familiar landscape as inspiration to spin a parable. But this parable is not told to teach anyone then or now about the terrain. It is a story about the sower and about the seed he sows.

So what do you make of a sower who throws costly seed around with such reckless abandon? Over rocks, onto scabby, crusted ground, into brambles and thorns the seeds fly. It seems the sower is a wasteful fool. Does that sower have so much seed that there are no limits to the scattering? Why do the pecking birds give him no hesitation? Has he, perhaps, seen plants bear fruit in surprising places where birds dropped what they had snatched? Might this sower be thinking of all the times he noticed life that, beyond all reason, cracked stone and rose from behind rock? Was he picturing beauty in thistles that bloomed brave flowers?

The sower, risking the outcome, wasting seed, is up to something unpredictably grace-full among snatchers and takers, stubborn blockheads and encroaching bullies and brutes. God's grace has an infinitely wide reach, accomplishing more than we can imagine. May you find great joy in that good news today.

## ***Daily Readings for the Week July 16-22***

Sunday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Isaiah 55:10-13          Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13          Romans 8:1-11          Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</p>
Monday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 92          Leviticus 26:3-20          1 Thessalonians 4:1-8</p>
Tuesday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 92          Deuteronomy 28:1-14          Ephesians 4:17—5:2</p>
Wednesday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 92          Proverbs 11:23-30          Matthew 13:10-17</p>
Thursday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 86:11-17          Isaiah 41:21-29          Hebrews 2:1-9</p>
Friday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 86:11-17          Isaiah 44:9-17          Hebrews 6:13-20</p>
Saturday:	<p style="text-align: right;">Psalm 86:11-17          Isaiah 44:18-20          Matthew 7:15-20</p>

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