Welcome and Announcements

Centering Music for Quiet Meditation

*Confession

P: In the name of the Triune God + who creates, redeems and sustains: Let us pray.
C: God the Sower,
we confess that we do not always live
as people who obey your law.
Sometimes, we are like rocky ground.
We welcome your word when life is simple.
But as soon as we face challenge,
we forget your teachings and our faith withers.
Sometimes, we are a thicket full of thorns.
We clamor for more and step over the needy.
Your word is choked out of our hearts.
Forgive us, Lord.
Let your Spirit work within and among us;
make us good soil.
Weed out our resistance
and water us with your grace,
that your word might grow within us
and we might bear fruit
for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

(Silent confession)
P: Lord, in your mercy.
C: Hear our prayer.

*Forgiveness

Ends with:
P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
C: Thanks be to God!

*Gathering Song #516 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast” (vs.1 & 3)
1 Almighty God, your word is cast
like seed into the ground;
now let the dew of heav’n descend
and righteous fruits abound.
3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundredfold
the fruits of peace and joy.

*Greeting*

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

**WORD**

**First Reading** Isaiah 55:10-13

Jane Hein

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, 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. 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. 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.

L: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel* Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 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. 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 brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!” “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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on 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 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. 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. 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.”
P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Time with the Children

Sermon

“Good Soil”

Pastor Doug Gebhard

Musical Meditation

A time to reflect and meditate on the Word.

*Apostles’ Creed* (Unison)

AM: Let us confess our faith, the faith in which we were baptized.
C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 the People

Each section ends with:

AM: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

AM: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Extend signs of peace without physical contact.
MEAL

Offering

Musical Meditation

Offering Song “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” (#35 With One Voice)
Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer
AM: God of unending gifts, we praise you for your abundant goodness.
As you are generous, we want to be generous too.
May the gifts we bring extend your generosity into the world, so that
all people may be made whole by your goodness and grace. Amen.
C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy (Spoken in unison)
Holy, holy, holy Lord
Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Words of Institution and Acclamation
In 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Great is the mystery of faith:
C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord’s Prayer (Unison)
C: 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 (Spoken in Unison)
C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. And grant us your peace

Communion of the People of God
Worshippers remain seated. Each pre-packaged communion set contains a wafer and grape juice. Please partake of each element when invited to do so by the Pastor.

P: Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry…”
The body of Christ given for you.
C: Amen.
All partake of the bread.

P: Jesus said, “I am the vine and you are the branches. Cut off from me, you can do nothing.”
The blood of Christ shed for you.
C: Amen.
All partake of the cup.

Prayer after Communion
**SENDING**

**Blessing**

*Sending Song #550 “On What Has Now Been Sown”* (vs. 1 & 2)

1 On what has now been sown
your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow’r is yours alone
 to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!

2 To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow’rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.

*Dismissal*

AM: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here I am; send me!”

C: Amen.