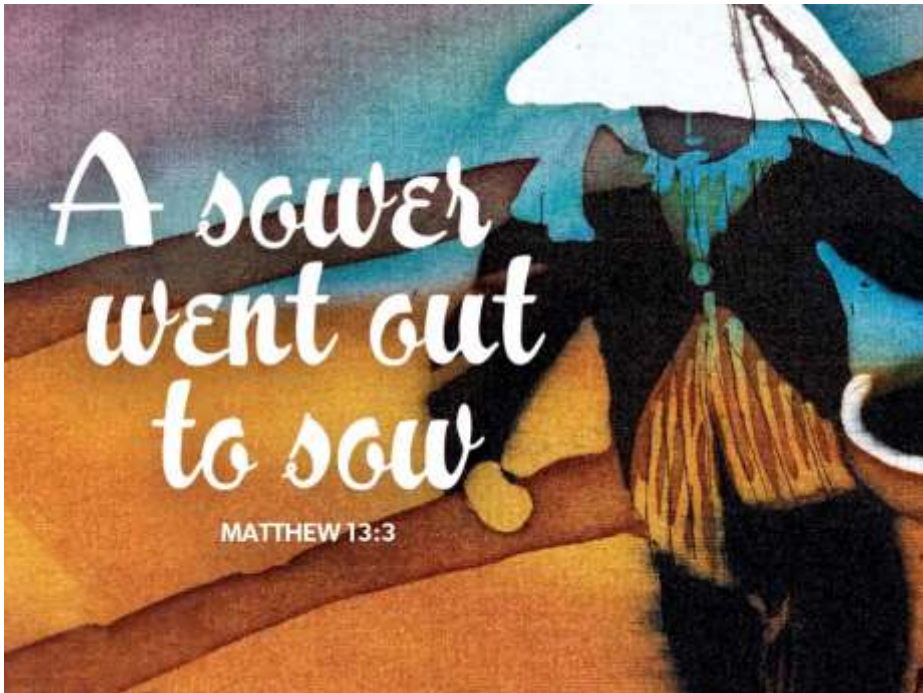


Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



July 16, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

*Kviteseid Lutheran Church
308 North Third Street
Milan, Minnesota*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to worship at Kviteseid Lutheran Church... The psalmist proclaims that God's word is a lamp for our feet (Psalm 119:105). May you experience the light of God's guidance on your path today.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" (vs. 1-2, 4-5) ELW #533

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 65

P God of life and love

C **We rejoice in your abundant gifts**

P God of all peoples and all places

C **We celebrate your generosity and grace**

P God of the earth and the heavens

C **We praise you for your provision**

P You visit the earth and water it

C **Softening it with showers and blessing its growth**

P You make springs gush forth in the valleys

C **From your lofty abode you water the mountains**

P God of life and love

C **We bless your holy name**

OPENING PRAYER

P O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word.

C **Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.**

P We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.

****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In Christ there is no condemnation,
for perfect love casts out sin.
Let us confess our sins to God. *Rom. 8:1*

C **Faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground
when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth
crowd out your place in our lives.
Forgive our frail and human ways
and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness,
for you are our hope for deliverance. Amen.** *Ps. 65:5; Matt. 13:22*

P Brothers and sisters,
when deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
God forgives our transgressions. *Ps. 65:3-4*
Be at peace, for God restores and strengthens you
and waters your soul in its parched and hardened places.
Happy are those who come into God's courts,
for you shall be satisfied with the goodness of God
and rejoice in the holiness of God's temple.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise and Thanksgiving" ELW #689

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

LESSON: Isaiah 55:10-13

*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.*

PSALM 65:1-13

L ¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

C ²To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.

- L ³Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.
- C **⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**
- L ⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.
- C **⁶You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**
- L ⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- C **⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**
- L 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.
- C **¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- L ¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.
- C **¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- L ¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

LESSON: Romans 8:1-11

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 death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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.

- P The Gospel of our Lord.
- C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW #679

APOSTLES’ CREED

page 105

**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 Pilot,
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 CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Hear us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

**P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the
one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.**

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

ELW #884

****OFFERING PRAYER**

P Giver of life, *Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23*
we do not want the cares of the world and the lure of wealth
to choke your word among us. As the sower casts seeds abundantly,
hopefully, so we long to participate in your seeding of the world.
Receive these gifts as tokens of our lives. Send your cultivating Spirit to work
among us until we yield and grow in grace, for we pray in the name of Jesus,
who came out of love for the world.

C Amen.

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.**

****CHARGE**

P Go forth sowing the seed of God's new world, and give thanks,
for God will supply the growth.

****BLESSING**

P May God, whose forgiveness is boundless,
the Christ, whose charge is freedom,
the Spirit, which grants us life and peace,
keep our minds and hearts in grateful communion
as we seek to serve. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

ELW #547

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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