

Pentecost 6 2020 Devotional

Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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 loves are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest.

Welcome to our worship this day!

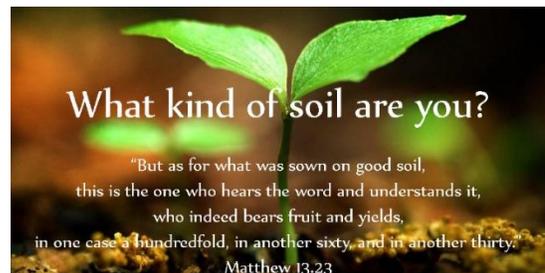
Our Bible themes for this Sunday take us to the prophet Isaiah, where the image of nature and the sovereignty of God is highlighted, with the whole creation giving praise to God, in joy and in peace.

In our second lesson we continue our reading from the Paul's epistle to the Romans, with the images of what it means to live in the reconciliation of God grace and mercy, and a reminder for us to open our eyes and our hearts to the gifting of God's Holy Spirit.

The Gospel will take us to the lakeshore, where Jesus pushes off in a boat...and begins telling his stories...parables...images of the kingdom of God, that touch on the very lives of the people. Today, we will be in the fields, with the Sower as he cascades the seeds into the field.

Call it the Parable of the Sower, or of the Seeds, or of the Soil. All titles might illustrate a unique way of understanding this parable, of applying it to our lives.

The Sower is recklessly extravagantly as the seeds are tossed into the wind. Call them the Word of God, be the evangelist that takes the Word of God and flings it out to all...hoping and praying that more and more people might hear the Good News and enter into that living loving relationship with Christ.



The Seeds carry the life of God with them, left to be scattered, to germinate and grow. You and I may be like the seeds that are scattered and how will we grow and what will we produce, a hundred-fold, sixty or thirty?

The Soils. What kind of soil will you be?

- The seed that lands where the soil has become hardened from being repeatedly walked on simply sits on the surface, waiting to become food for the birds.
- The seed that falls on rocky soil has difficulty taking root because the soil inhibits the growth of roots, necessary for plants to access the nutrients in the soil.
- The seed that falls on ground covered in thorns must compete with already well-established, invasive plants and stands little chance.
- But the seed that falls on the soil that has been prepared, turned over and loosened until it is fine, replenished with nutrients from the decaying matter of leaves, thrives.

Listen if you have the ears to hear!

