

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Welcome, Announcements, and Service Notes

Prelude      “The Sound of Silence”      Paul Simon

### Call to Worship & Prayer of the Day

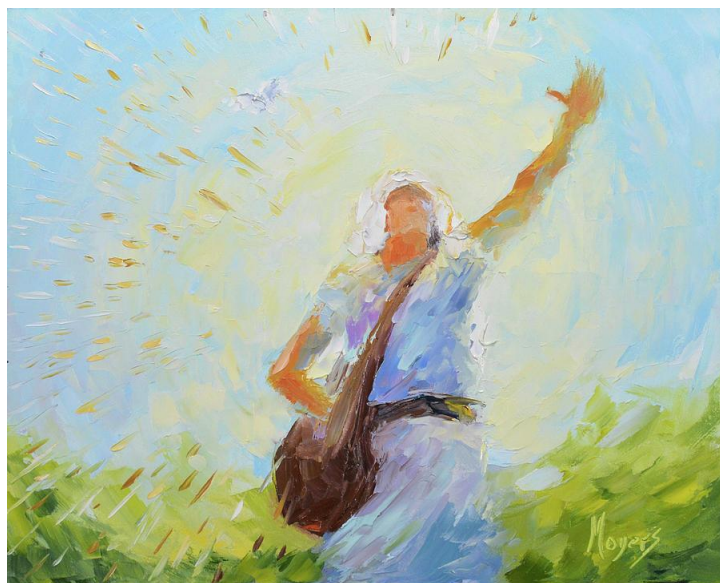
#### Hymn

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”      LIEBSTER JESU

#### Call to Confession

#### Corporate Prayer of Confession (unison)

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. Plant the seeds of your gospel in every heart until each and all bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is withering and wasting away while awaiting redemption and re-creation. Amen.



(Moment for Silent Reflection)

### Declaration of Forgiveness & The Peace of Christ

## THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Hebrew Scripture Lesson      Isaiah 55: 1 – 13

Psalmody      Psalm 65: “To Bless the Earth”      CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN

Gospel Lesson      Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23

Sermon      *Sowing Stories*      Rev. Anthony L. Larson

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn      “Bring Forth the Kingdom”      BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

#### Sharing Joys and Concerns

#### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

SENT BY GOD'S WORD  
INTO THE WORLD

#### Hymn

“God of the Fertile Fields”      ITALIAN HYMN

#### Charge & Benediction

#### Postlude

“Postludio Maestoso”      Ellen Jane Lorenz



## 395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part, Light of Light, from

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed, till your Spir - it breaks our night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;

and in glow - ing faith be near you. By your gos - pel  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your

true and ho - ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole - ly.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 church now rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Originally conceived to be sung before the sermon, this hymn assumes a congregation that assembles regularly, and it needs to be placed near the beginning rather than the end of worship. The simple repetitive tune reinforces the text's sense of receptivity and expectation.

# To Bless the Earth

(Psalm 65)

38

1 To bless the earth God sends us from  
 2 The seed by God pro - vid - ed is  
 3 God crowns the year with good - ness; the  
 4 With grain the fields are cov - ered; the

heaven's a - bun - dant store the wa - ters of the  
 sown o'er hill and plain, and then come gen - tle  
 earth God's mer - cy fills; the wil - der - ness is  
 flocks in pas - tures graze; all na - ture joins in

spring - time, en - rich - ing it once more.  
 show - ers to bless the spring - ing grain.  
 fruit - ful, and joy - ful are the hills.  
 sing - ing a joy - ful song of praise.

These four stanzas present a paraphrase of Psalm 65:9–13, a celebration of God's providential care, which in turn draws forth a song of praise from all creation. This text is set to an early 17th-century tune composed for an affirmative chorale text often used at funerals.

TEXT: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909, alt.  
 MUSIC: Melchior Vulpus, 1609

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN  
 7.6.7.6

## Bring Forth the Kingdom

*Leader*  
D G D *All*  
G D



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple: Salt for the  
 2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple: Light for the  
 3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple: Bring forth the  
 4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple: Bound for the

*Leader*  
Em A D G D Em A D



King - dom of God! Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple:  
 Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple:  
 King - dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice,  
 King - dom of God! Love our jour - ney and love our home - land:

*All*  
G D Em A D *Refrain*  
G D Em A D



Life in the King - dom of God!  
 Shine for the King - dom of God! Bring forth the King - dom of mer - cy,  
 grow in the King - dom of God!  
 Love is the King - dom of God!

G D Em A D G D Em A D



bring forth the King - dom of peace; bring forth the King - dom of jus - tice,

G D Em A D G D Em A D



bring forth the Cit - y of God! \_\_\_\_\_

WORDS: Marty Haugen (Matt. 5:13-16)

MUSIC: Marty Haugen

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BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM  
Irregular with Refrain



# God of the Fertile Fields 714

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of  
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
 trust from you all that you give; help us in  
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
 love to share, teach us like you to care  
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bus - ed,  
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.  
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.  
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.