

PRELUDE "From the Inside Out"

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

ELW, Page 95

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation...of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. (silence for reflection)

C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us...that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN** "Lift High the Cross"

ELW # 660

***APOSTOLIC 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.**

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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. **C: Lord, have mercy**

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

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

ELW, Page 148

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.** **P:** Let us pray...

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Where The Music Comes From" by Lee Hoiby

LESSON OF THE DAY Psalm 119:121-128, Matthew 13:10-23

P: Word of God, Word of life **C: Thanks be to God**

SERMON Pastor Karsten Nelson

RESPONSE SONG/OFFERING/WELCOME FOLDERS

"Knowing You"

NICENE CREED

ELW, page 126

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG "In Christ Alone"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord by building community. **C:** Thanks be to God

Psalm 119:121-128

¹²¹ I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.
¹²² Guarantee your servant's well-being; do not let the godless oppress me.
¹²³ My eyes fail from watching for your salvation,
and for the fulfilment of your righteous promise.
¹²⁴ Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.
¹²⁵ I am your servant; give me understanding, so that I may know your decrees.
¹²⁶ It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken.
¹²⁷ Truly I love your commandments more than gold, more than fine gold.
¹²⁸ Truly I direct my steps by all your precepts; I hate every false way.

Matthew 13:10-23

The Purpose of the Parables

10 Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' ¹¹He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand."¹⁴With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

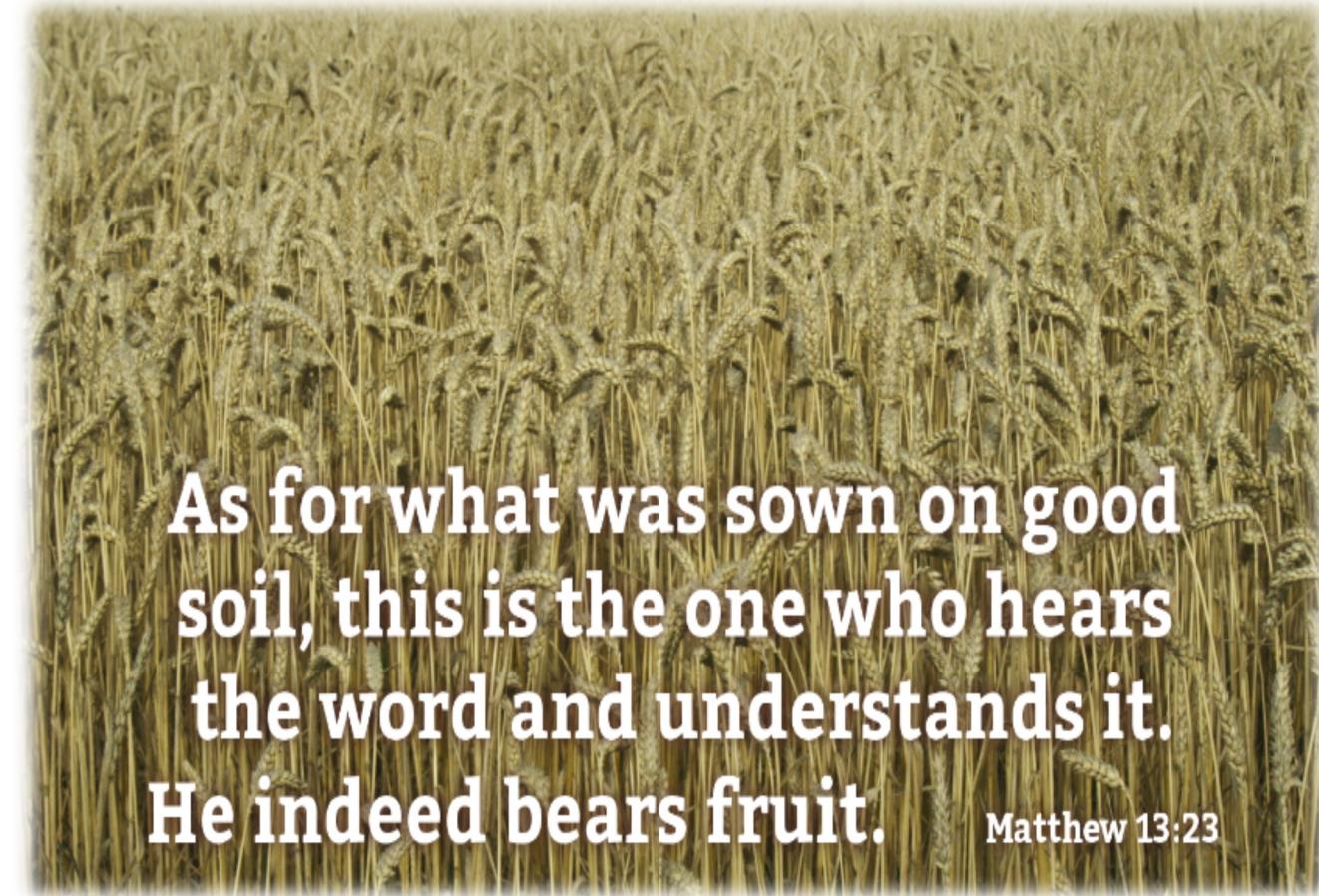
"You will indeed listen, but never understand,
and you will indeed look, but never perceive.

¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them."

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ 'Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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.'



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sunday July 24, 2016

9:30am