

scattered. If you have ears, pay attention!

Now listen to the meaning of the story about the farmer:

The seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message about the kingdom, but don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches the message from their hearts. The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it at once. But they don't have deep roots, and they don't last very long. As soon as life gets hard or the message gets them in trouble, they give up.

The seeds that fell among the thornbushes are also people who hear the message. But they start worrying about the needs of this life and are fooled by the desire to get rich. So the message gets choked out, and they never produce anything. The seeds that fell on good ground are the people who hear and understand the message. They produce as much as 100 or 60 or 30 times what was planted.

OFFERTORY HYMN: 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' (705)

COMMUNION HYMNS:

'Likje a Mighty River Flowing' (395)

'Be Still and Know that I am God' (59)

'Kum Ba Yah' (371)

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

FINAL HYMN: 'You Shall Go Out with Joy' (754)

FOR YOU SHALL GO OUT IN
Joy
AND BE LED FORTH IN PEACE;
THE *mountains* AND THE *hills*
BEFORE YOU SHALL BREAK
forth into singing.
AND *all the trees* OF THE FIELD
SHALL CLAP THEIR HANDS.
Isaiah 55:12

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GATHERING HYMN:

'Take This Moment' (607)

COLLECT:

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



FIRST READING

Isaiah 55.10-13

"Rain and snow fall from the sky.
But they don't return without watering the earth
that produces seeds to plant and grain to eat.
That's how it is with my words.

They don't return to me
without doing everything I send them to do."
When you are set free, you will celebrate
and travel home in peace.
Mountains and hills will sing as you pass by,
and trees will clap.

Cypress and myrtle trees will grow in fields
once covered by thorns.

And then those trees will stand as a lasting
witness to the glory of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



SECOND READING

Romans 8: 1 – 11

If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won't be punished. The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death. The Law of Moses cannot do this, because our selfish desires make the Law weak. But God set you free when he sent his own Son to be like us sinners and to be a sacrifice for our sin. God used Christ's body to condemn sin. He did this, so that we would do what the Law commands by obeying the Spirit instead of our own desires.

People who are ruled by their desires think only of themselves. Everyone who is ruled by the Holy Spirit thinks about spiritual things. If our minds are ruled by our desires, we will die. But if our minds are ruled by the Spirit, we will have life and peace. Our desires fight against God, because they do not and cannot obey God's laws. If we follow our desires, we cannot please God.

You are no longer ruled by your desires, but by God's Spirit, who lives in you. People who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them don't belong to him. But Christ lives in you. So you are alive because God has accepted you, even though your bodies must die because of your sins. Yet God raised Jesus to life! God's Spirit now lives in you, and he will raise you to life by his Spirit.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN: 'Speak O Lord as We Come to You'

1. Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us,
all Your purposes for Your glory.

2. Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail,
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

We sing verse 3 after the Gospel Reading

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your Church is built
and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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GOSPEL

Matthew 13. 1 -9 & 18 —23

That same day Jesus left the house and went out beside Lake Galilee, where he sat down to teach. Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat, while the people stood on the shore. Then he taught them many things by using stories. He said:
A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil wasn't very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have deep roots. Some other seeds fell where thornbushes grew up and choked the plants. But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants produced 100 or 60 or 30 times as much as was

