

## Worship Prayer...

*Father in heaven, I admit I am a sinner and cannot save myself, but trust only in your Son Jesus Christ—true God and true man—who died on the cross for me and rose again to give me new life now and forever. By your Holy Spirit's power take my heart and life and make me yours; turn me from my own selfish path to always love, trust and follow Jesus. Because you love and forgive me, help me forgive and love others. And now, as we gather together as your church in this place, make us one in truth and love according to the faithful leading and unfailing promises of your living Word. In Jesus' name....Amen!*

## Living Word exists to...

- *Proclaim God's Love*
- *Expand God's Kingdom*
- *Mature God's People*
- *Live God's Word!*

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# Living Word



*"Parable of the Sower" illustration published in 1877*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2020

10:00 am Service

***'Come grow with us!'***

Living Word Lutheran Church (LCMS)  
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## **WELCOME TO LIVING WORD!**

*Our candles remind us the Light of the World Jesus Christ is here!  
Blue information card, hymnal & Bible are in seat pocket.  
Songs/readings on screen—also in Hymnals/Bibles.*

### **WE REJOICE IN GOD'S LOVE...**

Welcome & Intro *Parable of the Sower Animation*  
[youtube.com/watch?v=Tb7bvF5Ucrk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Tb7bvF5Ucrk)

Opening Prayer & Praise *"Father Me, Again"*

Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: *2<sup>nd</sup> Petition of Lord's Prayer with Explanation*  
*(Read responsively)*

### **WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD...**

Today's Psalm *Psalm 65*

Scripture Readings *Facing page*

Message Song *"Bring Forth the Kingdom"*

Message *"Good Ground"*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL...**

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Prayers of God's People & Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song *"The Trees of the Field"*  
*Please place offerings in basket at sanctuary entrance*

## **"Good Ground"**

The Psalmist says about God, "*You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.*" In the parable of the sower Jesus compares our heart to soil for His "seed". In these readings we see both our obligation *to* Him and our dependence *on* Him. Are we good ground?

### **1) *Is my hearing hard-hearted or wholehearted ?***

<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. Matthew 13:18-19

### **2) *Is my reality rocky or rooted ?***

<sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Matthew 13:20-21

### **3) *Is my choice choking or changing ?***

<sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. Matthew 13:22

### **4) *Is my faith fruitless or fertile ?***

<sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Matthew 13:23

*"If you want to get it together, you must first put it together..."*

*"If you then...know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Luke 11:13