



A sower
went out to sow

MATTHEW 13:3

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail: secretary@trinityeastpete.org

The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director

Mrs. Christine Oetama, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Sean McKelvey, Preschool Director

Celebrating 175 Years: Honoring Our Heritage, Moving Forward in Faith!

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: 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 lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. ***Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.***

PRAYER AS YOU ENTER: *Almighty God, we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response to all the possibilities you lay out before us. We are grateful for the revelation you provide through the witness of many in the Scriptures. Through their words, help us to discern your Word. Come to us in the midst of our diversity to bring understanding and mutual caring. Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children. Beyond our clamor for the things of this world, we long for the richness of your spirit you alone can provide. Feed us here, we pray. Amen.*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead.

That Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope.

God cares for the earth and for each one of us.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, but we fear the Spirit's power.

Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and erective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

THE PSALTER

Psalms 65:1-13

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, **O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.**

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. **Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.**

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple. **By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might. You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,
The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"God's Garden"

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and 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.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Accept our offering of praise and our offering of ourselves, O God, along with our tithes and contributions toward our church's ministry. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partakers of your own Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your Word. May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundant harvest for your realm. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us. Have we not heard? Have we not known? In the beginning, you swept across the earth with your Spirit of life and renewal. When we forgot or neglected your truth, you redeemed us and renewed us. From the earth's first gardens to the mountaintop storms, you have spoken to us, and entrusted us to be your people. From laws on tablets to warnings from prophets, you have spoken your truth and renewed your covenant with us, reviving us and reclaiming

us through your grace and love. And so, with your people on earth, with all of creation, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise, saying:

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ to reveal your powerful love for the world. Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, welcoming any and all, Christ continues to reveal your presence, renewing our souls even now. Through Christ's powerful love and endless grace, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sins, and led onto your path of justice and righteousness. In Christ's grace, you renew and reclaim us as your holy people, children of mercy and truth. As children of your covenant of love, sealed by water and the Spirit, welcome now with joy and gratitude, remembering how Jesus shared bread and wine, renewing and reviving the lives of his closest friends, his most faithful disciples, even as they faced their deepest fears and their greatest sins.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

*(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. **Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.**)*

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given to honor all those who participated & helped in Vacation Bible School. Hope to see you at Friendship Fest.

The Worship Aids are given by the **Altar Guild** as thanks to John Barr for polishing the church's silver.

Ministering Today

Pastor/Celebrant	Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin
Lector/Assistant	Rev. Jack Esbenshade
Money Counters	Lee Bossert, Ron & Donna Denlinger, Steve Shenk, Bob Bistline
Altar Guild	Nancy Enders
Building Trustee	Pat Sensenig
Ministries	Card Deacons (Denise Pfeiffer)
	Called to Care Nancy Enders
	Visitation Noreen Trostle, Betsy Bailey

Happy Birthday!

Today – Kathy Pilsner
Monday – Keith Daly
Tuesday – Eugene Hartenstine
Wednesday – Zachary Mowrer, Robert Wible
Thursday – Betty Tyndall
Friday – Jill Owens, Rev. Ken Trauger

Attendance for Sun., July 9

7:45–17 9:30–57 **TOTAL – 74**

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Today 4:00-7:00 PM – Friendship Fest
5:00 PM - Concert

Monday-Friday Work in Isenberg Hall during day

Wednesday 7:00 PM – Finance Committee

Thursday 7:00 PM – Parish Life Committee

Saturday 7:00 PM – Alanon/8:00 PM - AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Worship

Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer, Guest Preacher

PRAYERS FOR GOD’S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Dr. Blaine Connor	Don & Pat Miller	Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman
Scott & Jane Owens	Dave Trostle	Dorothy Fasnacht
Dr. Becky Wagner	John Shelsky	Dr. Janet Harriger
The Lehman family	Donna Wolf	Deb Lichtenwalner
Mike Wagner	Joann Peck	Eugene Hartenstine
Mary Lou Shaab	Ron Becker	Stan & Pat Seachrist
Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley	Donna Zirkel	Carmen & Jerry Richards
Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser	Sam Minder III	Lainie Christensen
Betty Tyndall and family	Hank Fox	Charles & Betty Booraem
Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline	Nancy Patton	Bob & Marlyn Wible
Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman	Mary Witmer	Kathleen Sensenig Adams
Joann & Dawn Garvin	Erika Otthofer	Danielle Huggins Holbein

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family & friends of Father Alexander Veronis
The family of Tom Brooks (friend of Charlene & Jack Cristy)
Gina McCarty (daughter-in-law of Bud & Kathy McCarty)
The Bruno family (friends of Blaine Connor)
Jessica Brown (niece of Mike & Shelley Wagner)
Janice Zimmerman (sister of Ken Zimmerman)
Jack & Sandy Neal (friends of Trinity members)
Joan Nevins (friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)
Janet Grebinger (friend of John and Sarah Paulukow)
Larry Gerlach (brother of Dolly Barr)
James Michaud (Sevi Keares’ teacher)
John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)
Kelly Quick (friend of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)
James Malone & family
Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)
Janet Owens (sister-in-law of Scott & Jane Owens)
Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)
Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig),
Robin McComsey (neighbor of Himelwrights)
Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)
Rev. Phyllis Baum (former member of Trinity Church)
Jake & Jean Otthofer (parents of Dan Otthofer)
The Martin family
Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)
Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)
Barry Richards(son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)
The Bonilla-Rodriguez family (friends of Trinity Church)

PASTOR ON VACATION: Pastor Rankin will be on vacation Monday, July 17-Thursday, July 27. **Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer** will be preaching at both services on July 23. **The Rev. Sandy Morris** will be covering pastoral emergencies during this time. You can reach Rev. Morris at (717) 385-1588

THE JULY/AUGUST PARISH POST is available on both floors of the church building.

DEVOTIONALS: The July-September edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

VBS MISSION PROJECT: This year's VBS mission project is the Hempfield Power Packs. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission".

2023 CONCERT SPONSORS: Forms are available on the table across from the church office for you to sponsor this year's concert series.

THIS WEEK'S CAMPER: Gabriella Gibbons (granddaughter of Rev. Sandy Morris) will be attending church camp this week. Please keep all the campers and staff in prayer. You can send notes to her at the following address:

Gabriella Gibbons

Junior Arts & Craft Camp

Kirchenwald

1 Cut Off Rd.

Lebanon, PA 17042

Save the Date
FRIENDSHIP FEST
FOOD TRUCK
EVENT
July 16
4:00-7:00 PM

BOUNCE HOUSE
no charge

AUSCULTATION BRASS CONCERT
5:00-6:00 PM

FACE PAINTING

Magician
Eric Vera

FOOD TRUCKS
Stoney's Burgers & Fries
Tri-County Barbeque
TJs Ice Cream
Dutch Country Hand Rolled Soft Pretzels
The TACO RV-(cash only)
Peace of Mind Protection Fire House

We are in need of volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and stand at the Trinity Table during the Friendship Fest. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!

CHURCH PICNIC
3:00-7:00 PM
August 27

Hempfield Fire Department Park
19 Main Street, Landisville
(parking is in the lot behind the fire department)

TRINITY PRAYER BOOK: In the spring, participants in the Adult Sunday School Class were sharing prayers that were meaningful to their family. Anne Rankin thought it would be good to compile these prayers and create a Trinity prayer book as part of our 175th anniversary. You can submit prayers to Pastor Chris or Anne.



We still have a few openings for Musical Offerings over the summer and if anyone is interested in offering their gifts, they should contact Mike & Dina Slechta at music@trinityeastpete.org.

SHARE YOUR STORIES/MEMORIES OF TRINITY CHURCH: The 175th Anniversary Committee invites members of the congregation to share your stories and memories of Trinity Church for our November Echoes of the Past article. What are some of the things you remember from our past? Who are some of the people you remember? For some of our newer members, what drew you to Trinity Church? Whether you have been here 50 years or you recently joined, we want to hear from you!! **Please submit your stories/memories to the church office by October 6.**

TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: It is not too late to buy S. Clyde Weaver sub coupons to support the Trinity Preschool. The cost is \$8 per coupon. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.

HARTMAN CENTER HOMECOMING CAMP (July 31-August 5)

There will be several camps happening that week at the Hartman Center Campground in Milroy (the former Penn Central Conference Camp). The Rankin family will be attending, so talk with them if you are interested in attending at all during that week!

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

You can still register for summer camp at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa! There are a wide range of camps this summer for all ages — kindergarteners through high schoolers, families, adults, and older folks. Below is a list of the camps this year! **Contact Pastor Chris or Anne Rankin for more information!**

As you know, Penn Central Conference paid for 50% of camp registration fees last year. It is wonderful to be able to announce that that same generous offer stands again this year! **You can help send campers from Trinity by contribution to our Camp Scholarship Fund. Place your contribution in your weekly offering envelope and mark the special designation box with “Camp Scholarship”.**

CAMP WEEK	EXPLORERS Grades K-2	JUNIORS Grades 3-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 6-9	SENIOR HIGH & ADVENTURE TRIPS
JULY 16-22		Arts & Crafts Back-Country Outpost S.U.R.E. TURTLES	Water Adventure	Beach (Grades 9-11)
JULY 23-29	Pioneers	Classic Arts & Crafts NightHawks S.U.R.E.	SUB Adventure	Adirondack Canoe (Grades 7-11)
JULY 30- AUG 5	Day Camp (M-F)	Classic Bikes & Boulders	Back-Country Outpost High Adventure	KirchenQuest (Grades 7-11)
AUG 6-12	Family Camp-K-tion (Family Camp)			
	Mini Camp	Ultimate Sports	Fishing Ultimate Sports	

Kirchenwald is located on 340 acres of scenic forest, adjacent to 4,000 acres of State Game Lands, in Lebanon, PA.

CAMP WEEK	EXPLORERS Grades K-2	JUNIORS Grades 3-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 6-9	SENIOR HIGH Grades 9-11
JULY 16-22	Family Camp			
JULY 23-29	Nature Detectives Mini Camp	Classic Night Owls O.W.L.S. Wild Things	Classic Ten Day	Ten Day
JULY 30- AUG 5	Classic Day Camp (M-F)	Classic Team Sports	Classic Blaze and Paddle Adventure Team Sports	
AUG 6-12	Family Camp			

Nawakwa is located on 336 acres outside of Arendtsville, in Adams County, Pennsylvania.



Mt. Gretna Tabernacle

MT. GRETTNA BIBLE FESTIVAL 2023

Summer at the Tabernacle | *Worship, Speakers and Concerts*

All Programs are in the Historic Tabernacle • 3rd St. & Glossbrenner Ave. Parking GPS Address: 41 Boulevard St, Mt. Gretna PA 17064

Please visit MtGretnaTabernacle.org for any program cancellations. A freewill offering will be received at each program.

July 16 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

Rizzetta's Tones Celtic & folk band with songs that are both poignant and humorous.



August 2 Wednesday 7 p.m. Hymn Sing

Led by **Bob Kettering and Dr. Rod Shearer**. Congregational favorites from the Celebration Hymnal.



July 23 Sunday 7 p.m. Speaker

Rev. Alan Robinson National Director of the Brethren in Christ, U.S., Dillsburg, Pa.



August 5 Saturday 7 p.m. Concert

Handbell Festival Under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingrich, Hershey, Pa., ringers from the area will ring the praise and glory of God.



July 30 Sunday 7 p.m. Concert

Choir Festival Internationally renowned composer Robert Lau, retired church musician and college professor, directs over 150 voices in a joyous concert. *Sponsored by Loser's Music. Concert made possible by the Estate of Douglas Troutman.*

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Greeter /Ushers Needed



If you would like to volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office. We recently had some vacancies as ushers, so we are in need of help!!!



Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer!

2023 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for chancel flowers are: July 30 & August 13 & 27. Upcoming dates for worship aids are: July 30, August 6, 13 & 20. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from
 heaven,
 and do not return there until they have watered
 the earth,
 making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my
 mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
 and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
 and be led back in peace;
 the mountains and the hills before you shall burst
 into song,
 and all the trees of the field shall clap their
 hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
 instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
 and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
 for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those
 who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of
 life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of
 sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law,
 weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his
 own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal
 with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that
 the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in
 us, who walk not according to the flesh but accord-
 ing to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to
 the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,
 but those who live according to the Spirit set their
 minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind
 on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the
 Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind
 that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not
 submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those
 who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the
 Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone
 who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not be-
 long to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the
 body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because
 of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised
 Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised
 Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal
 bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat
 beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around
 him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the
 whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them
 many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower
 went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell
 on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.
⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did
 not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly,
 since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun
 rose, they were scorched; and since they had no
 root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among
 thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth
 grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When
 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground,
 this is the one who hears the word and immediately
 receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root,
 but endures only for a while, and when trouble or
 persecution arises on account of the word, that per-
 son immediately falls away. ²²As 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. ²³But 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."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 44:6-8 or Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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