

Prayers

Each petition ends with the following response:

L Sower of the seeds,

C make your Word take root and grow.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn 234 "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"

Almighty God, your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
but give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundred-fold
The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,
Your quick'ning grace bestow,
that all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.



February 24, 2021
Mid-week Lenten service

THE PARABLES OF LENT RECEIVE THE WORD

THE PARABLE *of the SOWER and the SEED*

Order of Service

Opening Hymn 487 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" vv. 1-2

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do our Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy:
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share your woe; Help me there your joy to know.

Opening Litany

*L In this holy season the Son of God humbles himself so
that we receive mercy.*

**C Humble me once again, O God, that my life would
be pleasing and acceptable to you.**

*L In this holy season the Son of God spreads the seed of
his Word over our hearts.*

**C Make our hearts the good soil, O God, that receives
your Word and produces fruit that lasts.**

L In this holy season the Son of God enters into his Passion and death so that we are exalted.

C Grant me your grace, O God, that my faith in Jesus would be pleasing and acceptable to you.

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray;

C Lord God, you have gathered us together to observe the Lenten journey. Encourage us in our disciplines of prayer, study, worship, giving, and serving so that Christ who humbled himself taking on the form of a servant, might look upon us in mercy. May our lives be governed by the Holy Spirit that we may be kept steadfast in the faith, and at the last be exalted with you in eternity. For you live and reign with the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Our hearts are not always fertile ground for the planting of the Word of God. Let us confess the sins of our hearts and lives to our Lord who hears and forgives:

C Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. Our hearts are too often the “path” where Satan comes and snatches away what has been sown. Our hearts are too often the “rocky ground” where trial and difficulty make us fall away. Our hearts are too often the “thorns” that choke God’s Word and keep it from being fruitful. Our hearts are sinful and selfish, pushing away the grace of God and growing only sin and deceit. It is proven in our wicked thoughts, words and deeds. Forgive us, most holy God.

P The Lord Jesus came into this world with a heart that was perfect soil. He never sinned and always adhered to the Word of his Heavenly Father. His perfect life, crushing crucifixion and glorious resurrection mean complete forgiveness for the sins of our hearts and lives. Because his heart and life were “perfect soil” for us, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn of Response 102 “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

On my heart imprint your image, Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life’s troubles nor its pleasures Ever may your work erase;
let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope’s foundation, All my glory and salvation!

Old Testament Reading ... Jeremiah 7:1-7

Epistle Reading ... Colossians 1:3-14

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

Sermon

Sermon Hymn 309 “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be And taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity Point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share your joy at last.