

Church of the Divine Love
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 6

JUNE 13, 2021

10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence after the candles are lit

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#525, vs. 1.2.4.5 – The Church’s one foundation**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17**

Gradual Hymn **#677 – God moves in a mysterious way**

Gospel: **Mark 4:26-34**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn – **#601 – O day of God**

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread	page 364
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – They kingdom come! (sung by Rachael Kikoler)	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Dismissal Hymn #621 – Light's abode, celestial Salem	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday June 13, 2021

1 Samuel 15: 34-16: 13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4: 26-34.

Dear People of God,

God's call is often unexpected. In today's lessons, God interrupts Samuel on his way to Ramah, calling him to go to the house of Jesse, in Bethlehem. While there, God has him anoint David, the youngest child of Jesse, to lead the people. We come to church this morning to pray for the protection, wisdom, justice, and compassion we need to live by faith. The realm of God is like a mustard seed, tiny as it is planted, but growing mysteriously into something large enough to offer refuge to everyone. We're called to embrace and nurture life in ways we do not understand. Life is a mystery, and we walk by faith.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus tells parables about the kingdom of God. In chapter 4, Jesus gives us an image that is meant to draw us in to a mystery. This parable presents an invitation for us to participate in the growth and spread of God's kingdom, yes, we are called to be hard-working seed planters, but we are also called to be humble, grateful growth-watchers! 'The kingdom of God, Jesus says, 'is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground.'" So far, this is a description of a farmer doing what a farmer should do! Scattering the seed. Doing the planting! But once the farmer has done his or her part, Jesus tells us that something happens. Time passes, the sun shines, the rain falls, and the seed begins to grow. The plant sprouts and grows stronger, and finally the harvest comes. And all this growth occurs, Jesus says, without the farmer utterly understanding how it happens. If you asked the farmer in the parable, how did these plants grow? How did this great harvest happen? The farmer would honestly answer I don't know how.

In all of this, we must stand humbly before the mystery of each other's lives. The seed planting is our task, the growing happens in a way that is mysterious to us... beyond our full knowledge, certainly beyond our control. That same mystery, Jesus says, surround the growth of the Kingdom of God. We must humbly confess that we will never know how the kingdom grows, how it spreads, in whom it will

take root, because it is not our kingdom, it is God's. God is in charge. Christ reveals the truth. The Spirit leads us day by day. The Lord can take our smallest act of kindness or faithfulness, use it as a seed, and multiply it beyond our imagining. God can act through one person and transform nations. God can act through one church, and change thousands of lives. And in the end, we don't know how God does it. But on the other hand, we do know how God works, or, at least, how God's work gets started. We do know that Christ's Spirit changes lives. It happens when the Spirit inspires one person to live a life focused on what is truly important.

Like when a son is able to watch his father being prayerful, faithful and good. Like when a daughter is able to watch her mother being strong, loving and wise. Like when a neighbor is able to watch another neighbor doing the just and Godly thing. The seed of the kingdom is sown when God's grace enables someone to say: I am going to do what is right, and say what is right, and stand for what is right. Others will watch. Others will learn. The seed is thus planted. God does the rest, and others grow into the kingdom. Today we also hear from St. Paul, who says: "We make it our aim to please God. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil." Now, scholars and theologians may debate precisely what Saint Paul meant when we wrote this, but what this passage says to me is this: My actions mean something. Our actions have consequences, now, and in eternity. If we understand that, then we also begin to understand which things are worth doing, things that give honor and glory to God. And I suspect that if we try to live like that, with the help of God, then others may watch, and others will learn. Good seed will be planted.

Then, before you know it, we are not alone in living the values of the Kingdom of God. More folks will have learned how to say yes to life, and no to violence. How to say yes to justice, and no to greed. How to say yes to caring for others, and no to self-centered living. How to say yes to patience, yes to forgiveness, yes to faithfulness, yes to truth, yes to Christ. In my life, there have been so many wonderful people who have helped to plant the seed of the kingdom in me. Today, I thank God for them. I thank God that their faithfulness and generosity became one of the ways that the Divine seed-Sower planted some truth in me. And I marvel at how God has helped that truth to grow. I don't know how God does it. But it is God's kingdom, and God's mystery. As I thank God for the people who planted the seed of faith in me, I stand in awe of my daily calling, our daily calling as baptized believers. Live the faith. Speak the Word. Do the Gospel. In other words, plant the seed. Plant the seed of the Kingdom, not just where you think it will grow, but everywhere. Do not be discouraged by the size of the beginning; do not be concerned about the visible signs of the fruitiness of your efforts. The kingdom of God will come. The kingdom is one of grace and mercy that will come because God brings it. The church and the kingdom of God are the creation of God. The farmer does not know how the seed germinates and grows. Likewise, the kingdom of God grows in hidden, mysterious ways, independently of our human efforts.

The parable suggests that we are to be faithful farmers, Sowers of the seed, and we are not to worry about the crop because God will produce the harvest. We are often tempted to become so caught up with worrying about the harvest that we neglect the sowing of the seed. Or we may forget that God keeps us in this world to act as ministers of reconciliation, to be salt to prevent the rotting from getting worse. Or we may be so depressed by the apparently unconquered power of evil that we lose all faith and thus contribute to the darkness. Also, we may become so concerned with building the kingdom here on earth that we may forget that there is so much more to come. We may focus all our attention on the

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Two cemetery plots for sale by owner. Must be a parishioner to be buried there. \$2000 each. Contact Bob Gilbon 845-399-0945, or bob.gilbon@gmail.com.

Prayer for Grace and Favor in the New Year:

Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, “these are the ones that the Lord has blessed.” Shine your light in us, through us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Vera & Jose	Girard Bishop
Arlene Goodenough	Charlotte H.
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Bernie Walther
Nathan Treadwell	Irene

John Loubengeiger

Kim

Chris Dickson

Rachael

Michael Echevarria

Warren

Del

Bill Conklin

Michael & Family

Anthony Paribello

Martinisi Family

Edward Lent & Family

Lois Kessler

Kate Jones

Kathleen

Barbara Curran

Children who are ill:

Christopher and his family

Franklin Tenesaca

Ciara

Aidan

Gabriel