



The Parable of the Sower and the Seed
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SEXAGESIMA

(Meaning - 'Sixtieth' before Easter)

February 3, 2024

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Wenona, Illinois

Sexagesima

Rev. Jonathan P. Boehne (Vacancy Pastor)

February 3, 2024

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WELCOME to all who are worshiping with us. If you are a guest, please sign the guest book, including your home address and congregation. We welcome to our altar all those who share our confession of faith within the fellowship of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



THE OPENING HYMN:	"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"	Hymn # 904
DIVINE SERVICE, Setting One		page 151
THE INVOCATION		pg. 151
THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION		pg. 151
THE INTROIT	(chanted responsively by whole verse)	Psalms 33:13-22
THE KYRIE		pg. 152
<i>(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during pre-Lent.)</i>		
THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY		pg. 156
THE THEME HYMN:	"Christ Be My Leader"	Hymn # 861
THE OLD TESTAMENT READING		
THE EPISTLE		
<i>(The Alleluia is omitted during pre-Lent.)</i>		
THE HOLY GOSPEL		
HYMN OF THE DAY:	"How Firm a Foundation"	Hymn # 728
THE SERMON:	(see sermon insert)	
THE NICENE CREED		pg. 158-159
THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH		
THE OFFERTORY:	"What Shall I Render to the Lord"	pg. 159
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THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION		
THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:	"Nunc Dimittis"	pg. 165
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THE BENEDICTION		pg. 166
THE CLOSING HYMN:	"On What Has Now Been Sown"	Hymn # 921



The offering plate is on the table in the narthex. Thank you for your continued contributions.

COLLECT OF THE DAY - O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

IN OUR PRAYERS, we remember Starr Barke, Kristin Bosteels, Vic Bosteels, Dwayne Brewer, Sr., Katie Jones, Marion McKnight, Amy Schwanke, Neil Schwanke, Bill Simmons, Loretta Stoeger, Sally Thomas, Sally Tidmarsh, Andy Volker, Cindy Volker, Mildred Ward, and Ken Welch.

THIS WEEK AT ZION AND ST. PAUL'S:

TODAY (SATURDAY)	Zion Sunday School	3:45PM
	Zion Service with Holy Communion	5:00PM
SUNDAY	St. Paul's Service with Holy Communion	8:30AM
	St. Paul's Sunday School and Bible class	9:45AM
MONDAY	Zion Bible class	9:00AM
SATURDAY	Zion Sunday School	3:45PM
	Zion Service with Holy Communion	5:00PM
SUNDAY	St. Paul's Service with Holy Communion	8:30AM
	St. Paul's Sunday School and Bible class	9:45AM

ATTENDANCE last week: 27 Holy Communion: 26 Offering: \$785
Bible class: 6
(Zion needs about \$1,157 in weekly offerings to cover expenses)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Remember the Wenona Food Pantry as it helps needy families in our area. Please bring a food item next week when you come to church.

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is Wednesday, February 14. Worship service that day will be at Zion at 12:00PM. All of the Lent midweek services will be at noon also. Please mark your calendars.

Zion's Bible Study will meet this Monday at 9am (picking up at Matthew 24:32). Join us!

Sunday School is meeting each Saturday from 3:45 – 4:45 for children age 4 through junior high. Come and learn about Jesus!

From Pastor Boehne Please call me if you or someone you know is in the hospital or can't make it to Church for any reason. If you need prayers, please call me. **309-361-7578**

Weekly Church Emails If you're not getting the weekly email, then please make sure we have your email address. You can send it to: zionlutheranwenona@gmail.com

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰[Thus says the Lord God:] As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For 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. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

2 Corinthians 11:19 – 12:9

¹⁹[Brethren:] You gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. ²¹To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that!

But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they offspring of Abraham? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³²At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Luke 8:4-15

⁴ [At that time:] When a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to [Jesus], he said in a parable:

⁵"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones along the path are those who have heard. Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

SERMON ON 2 CORINTHIANS 11:19—12:9



I'VE GOT PROBLEMS. THE LORD'S GOT POWER.

I'M WEAK. THE LORD'S STRONG.

Sermon Outline

1. Fact: No one's got it all together. We've all got problems.
2. The super-apostles were claiming they had it all together and Paul pokes fun at their foolishness.
3. Paul had problems and we've got problems. But the Lord has power.
 - a. Examples of Weaknesses – Physical or mental sicknesses, depression, chronic pain, disabilities (sight, hearing, mind, paralysis, etc.), barrenness, social anxieties, poverty, grief, persecution, victim of abuse, PTSD, weakness to particular temptations (might run in the family), attractions to same-sex, ADHD, dysfunctional or broken family, divorce in family, overly emotional/sensitive, a wayward child, obsessive, lonely, etc.
4. Boast in your weaknesses and the Lord's power. God uses our weaknesses and afflictions for His purposes:
 - a. To bring us to repentance and strengthen faith.
 - b. To put sin to death in our bodies.
 - c. To put God's works on display for others.
 - d. To declare our obedience to the world.

DOCTRINE FOR THE DAY – GOD’S PURPOSES IN AFFLICTIONS

From the Lutheran Confessions, Apology, Article XIIb:

Therefore, troubles are not always punishments or signs of wrath. Indeed, terrified consciences should be taught that there are more important purposes for afflictions [2 Corinthians 12:9], so that they do not think God is rejecting them when they see nothing but God's punishment and anger in troubles. The other more important purposes are to be considered, that is, that God is doing His strange work so that He may be able to do His own work, as Isaiah 28 teaches in a long speech. [62/159] When the disciples asked about the blind man who sinned, Christ replies that the cause of his blindness is not sin, but that “the works of God might be displayed in him” (John 9:2–3). In Jeremiah it is said, “If those who did not deserve to drink the cup must drink it ...” (49:12). So the prophets, John the Baptist, and other saints were killed [Matthew 5:11]. [63/160] Therefore, troubles are not always punishments for certain past deeds, but they are God’s works, intended for our benefit, and that God’s power might be made more apparent in our weakness.

So Paul says God’s strength “is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Because of God’s will, our bodies should be sacrifices, to declare our obedience, and not to pay for eternal death. God has another price for that: the death of His own Son.



NEXT SATURDAY - February 10, 2024

Sunday of Passion Prediction & Healing Blind

*1 Sam. 16:1-13; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 18:31-43

Hymns: 709, 739, 763, 725

The blind man begged, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.” We will especially look at 1 Samuel 16, the calling and anointing of David, to see why Jesus is called “Son of David”.

