

Waupun United Methodist Church  
July 16, 2023



# *The Parable of the Sower*

Welcome to worship.  
May you find the presence of God wherever you are.

Prelude

Welcome

Musical Call to Worship

“For the Beauty of the Earth”  
Lori Page/Laurie Vant Hoff

**\*Call to Worship**

Your word, O God, is the seed; our hearts are the garden.

**Plant Your word within us, gracious God.**

Our gardens are dry. The seeds cannot grow.

**Soak us with life-giving water, gracious God.**

The earth's become barren without life within it.

**Feed us with Your life-giving meal, gracious God.**

The weeds are too thick. We can't see the Son.

**Shine on us, gracious God.**

**Your word is the seed; our hearts are the garden.**

**\*Opening Song**

**Red #577**

**on supplement**

**“God of Grace and God of Glory”**

**\*Opening Prayer**

**O God, we gather together in Your presence with expectation,  
hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word.**

**Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit.**

**May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil.**

**May they take root in our hearts and lives,**

**and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Message from/for the Children

“Good soil/rocky soil”

Bible Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**13** Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them.

<sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! <sup>9</sup> Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

<sup>18</sup> “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: <sup>19</sup> The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. <sup>20</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. <sup>22</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. <sup>23</sup> The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

New Living Translation (NLT)

**Hymn**

**Red #583**

**on supplement**

**“Sois la Semilla”**

Pastor's Message

"Foolish farming"

**Tithes and Offerings**

\*Song of Thanksgiving

Red #162

2x

on supplement

"Alleluia, Alleluia" (Refrain)

\*Litany of Obedience

on screen

**Prayers of the People**

Joys, Praise and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Announcements**

\*Closing Song

Red #707

on supplement

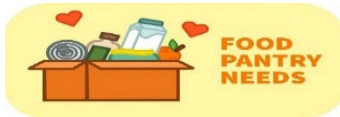
"Hymn of Promise"

**\*Blessing**

Today, O God, we have turned to You in search of direction for our lives, and You did not turn us away. You have opened our ears to Your word, our eyes to Your purpose, and our hearts to Your presence. Now send us forth as people who hear with our ears, see with our eyes, and understand with our hearts, that Your word might bear fruit within us and through us. **Amen.**

|                            |                                         |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Today's Worship Ministers: | All of us - wherever we are             |
| Tech Operators:            | Cole and Callan Bartlett                |
| Pianist:                   | Sue Rens Guell                          |
| Worship Leader/Preacher:   | Pastor Steve Miller                     |
| Counters:                  | Marilyn VanderSanden and Jeanne Ludjack |

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**



|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| July – Crackers                  |
| August – Peanut butter and Jelly |

**INTENSIVE PRAYER LIST**

Mike Duer   Joyce Brown   Tammy Kasuboski   Bob Bradley   Paula Wendt  
 Ray Dolgner   Ryan Giese   Dolores Good   Marilyn Siedschlag  
 Those impacted by war in Ukraine  
 The Confirmation class

**Remember our homebound:**

Hillside Manor, Beaver Dam: Joyce Berry  
 Prairie Place, Ripon: Elaine Stanton  
 Prairie Ridge, Waupun: June Witowich, Phyllis McDowell,  
 Alice Chase, Betty Buchholz

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