



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



JULY 26, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)
www.stmatthewsdanube.org | Pastor Mike Kuschel | home: 320-826-2280 | cell: 320-522-2428
Little Lambs Learning Center: 100 Main St. Danube, MN | office: 320-826-2340

Prayer Before Worship: 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 and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love.

The Seed That Falls on Good Ground Will Yield A Fruitful Harvest – Psalm 65

Recorded and Produced by Gen Bryant 2020 -- (c) Gen Bryant 2010

Published by Willow Publishing Pty Ltd.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNJAnet_Eic&feature=emb_title

Refrain: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain.

Refrain: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth.

Refrain: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

Refrain: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Refrain: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SERVICE OF THE WORD – CW page 38

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C: Amen

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON - *Isaiah 55:10,11*

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Verse of the Day (spoken by all)

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14)

SECOND LESSON - *Romans 8:18-25*

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Alleluia Response (sung)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²² The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

This is My Word

By Pepper Choplin

Lyrics based on Isaiah 55:10-12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48Fi1Y0b-rM&list=RD48Fi1Y0b-rM&index=1>

As the snow falls from heaven,
As it comes in swirling showers from the sky,
So is my Word.
As the rains bring the water to the earth that is thirsty and dry,
So is my Word.
And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty:
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.
This is my Word.

As the rain bring renewal
And the tender buds begin to come alive,
So is my Word.
Giving Seed to the sower,
And the bread to the hungry 'til they thrive,
So is my Word.
And the Word of my mouth, it shall not return empty;
It will bless the earth wherever it is heard.
This is my Word.

O Lord when I am weary
When I feel the days I'm living are in vain.
My God, help me be faithful to the Word
You have given to proclaim.
Proclaim the Word, and you will go out in joy,
And be led forth in peace,
And the hills will break before you into song.
So be faithful, brave and true.
For I will go before you,
And when your earthly journey here is done.

I'll say well done, I'll say well done!
I'll say well done, well done!

As the snow falls from heaven
And the rain comes in showers from the sky
This is my Word.

SERMON: Praise the Lord for his gift of life.

Sermon Text: Psalm 65

¹ Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

² O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.

³ When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

⁴ Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

⁵ You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

⁶ who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,

⁷ who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

⁸ Those living far away fear your wonders;

where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.

⁹ You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. ¹⁰ You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

¹² The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

¹³ The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering:

Please mail in your offering as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world. Thank you for your continued support!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy and immortal God, we thank you for having so bountifully given to the world its daily bread, providing the seed whose power unfolds to make fruitful the labors of the farmer. But we especially give thanks that you provided for our soul's hunger in the gift of the Bread from heaven, Jesus Christ, your Son. Grant, O Father, that we may believe in him with all our hearts and find satisfaction in this heavenly food. O God, grant that we may find in Christ the strength we do not find in ourselves: the power to uphold us in the toil and conflict of this earthly life, the resolution to do your will, and the determination to overcome our sins and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Set watchmen over your Church who preach your Word with all boldness. Be the Helper of all our families. Implant your Word in the hearts of our children and your love in our parents that they may enjoy now and forever the fruits of holiness. Free the afflicted from their troubles and bind them to you that they may have abundant life, and live to your service and praise.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

You know, O Lord, our frame and remember that we are dust. As we go from this holy place, by your great mercy renew us in faith, hope and love, that today and always we may live as your children; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" - CW # 323

**[1] Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit.**

**[2] We praise you for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.**

Composers & Copyrights: Text: Scandinavian hymn | Public Domain
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-c. 1561 | Public Domain THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

Announcements - *View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.*

Stay Connected Wherever You Are:

We realize that not everyone will be ready to return to worship as we reopen. We would like to encourage all those who are unable to come to worship, or unsure if they ought to come, to continue to make use of local radio, television, and online ministries. Below is a listing of different ministries available on different forms of media.

Television: Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings -

Radio: St. John's of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sundays

Online: Join us for worship online in one of several ways: visit www.stmatthewsdanube.org or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

Other Online Resources:

Visit the following websites to enrich your daily devotional life with a variety of online resources.

wels.net timeofgrace.org nph.net forwardinchrist.net

Update to our Health Protocols and Procedures

We have updated our protocols and procedures for in person worship in light of recent developments. Please wear a mask in compliance with the guidance of our governing authorities. Signs and reminders will be posted at our churches and on our website. If you have questions about this change or any of our other protocols and procedures, please speak with a member of the church council or pastor.

The Christian Funeral for Marvelyn Bratsch

The Lord in his wisdom called Marvelyn Bratsch to her eternal home on Tuesday, July 21. A private family service was held on Friday, July 24 at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery of Emmet Township, south of Renville. May the Lord Jesus comfort those who mourn with his precious promise, ***“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.”***

Miss Louisa Kahrs has arrived!

Miss Louisa Kahrs has begun her ministry among us! Louisa took over as head preschool teacher in early July. We are excited to have her as part of the Little Lambs staff. May God bless her ministry among us and may we be a blessing to her. Please consider sending her a card welcoming her to the area. Her contact information is as follows: Miss Louisa Kahrs 430 Bryant Ave. NW # 202 Renville, MN 56284.

Outdoor Worship Service - August 30

An outdoor worship service is being planned for August 30. We are planning to hold the service outside of St. Matthew Flora Twp. The service will begin at 9:30am and will be an opportunity for members of Zion of Olivia, St. Matthew's of Danube, St. Matthew of Flora Twp, and St. John's of Renville to come together to celebrate the fellowship that we share. During the service Miss Louisa Kahrs will be installed as the Little Lambs Preschool teacher. Pastor Kuschel will also be officially installed as the pastor of the Tri-Parish that includes St. Matthew Flora Twp, St. Matthew's Danube, and St. John's Lutheran of Renville. Please join us for this special service as we join together and praise our Lord. St. Matthew Flora Twp is located southeast of Renville about a mile south of County Rd 4 and a half mile west of County Rd 21. Directions to the church can be found on www.stmatthewflora.org

No 212 WELS Soccer Camp this summer

After much prayerful consideration, we have decided **not** to hold the 212 WELS Soccer Camp this year. In the end, we were unsure if we could provide adequate staffing for a fun, safe, and productive camp in August of 2020. We will be working diligently to ensure that, God-willing, the 212 WELS Soccer Camp returns in 2021.

Upcoming Meetings:

St. John's Renville - The quarterly meeting at St. John's Renville will be held after worship on Sunday, July 26.

St. Matthew's Danube - The quarterly meeting for St. Matthew's Danube will not be held in July. Instead a quarterly report will be made available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a council member.

Thank you for your continued support

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

***St. Matthew's Danube
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230***

***St. John's Renville
209 Bryant Ave NE
PO Box 416
Renville, MN 56284***

***St. Matthew Flora Twp.
36313 Kenwood Ave
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
(temporary mailing address)***

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you.



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I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

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LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" - CW # 323

**[1] Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit.**

**[2] We praise you for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here
May all at last in heav'n appear.**

Composers & Copyrights: Text: Scandinavian hymn | Public Domain
Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-c. 1561 | Public Domain THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

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Other Online Resources:

Visit the following websites to enrich your daily devotional life with a variety of online resources.

wels.net timeofgrace.org nph.net forwardinchrist.net

Update to our Health Protocols and Procedures

We have updated our protocols and procedures for in person worship in light of recent developments. Please wear a mask in compliance with the guidance of our governing authorities. Signs and reminders will be posted at our churches and on our website. If you have questions about this change or any of our other protocols and procedures, please speak with a member of the church council or pastor.

The Christian Funeral for Marvelyn Bratsch

The Lord in his wisdom called Marvelyn Bratsch to her eternal home on Tuesday, July 21. A private family service was held on Friday, July 24 at Bethany Lutheran Cemetery of Emmet Township, south of Renville. May the Lord Jesus comfort those who mourn with his precious promise, ***“Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.”***

Miss Louisa Kahrs has arrived!

Miss Louisa Kahrs has begun her ministry among us! Louisa took over as head preschool teacher in early July. We are excited to have her as part of the Little Lambs staff. May God bless her ministry among us and may we be a blessing to her. Please consider sending her a card welcoming her to the area. Her contact information is as follows: Miss Louisa Kahrs 430 Bryant Ave. NW # 202 Renville, MN 56284.

Outdoor Worship Service - August 30

An outdoor worship service is being planned for August 30. We are planning to hold the service outside of St. Matthew Flora Twp. The service will begin at 9:30am and will be an opportunity for members of Zion of Olivia, St. Matthew's of Danube, St. Matthew of Flora Twp, and St. John's of Renville to come together to celebrate the fellowship that we share. During the service Miss Louisa Kahrs will be installed as the Little Lambs Preschool teacher. Pastor Kuschel will also be officially installed as the pastor of the Tri-Parish that includes St. Matthew Flora Twp, St. Matthew's Danube, and St. John's Lutheran of Renville. Please join us for this special service as we join together and praise our Lord. St. Matthew Flora Twp is located southeast of Renville about a mile south of County Rd 4 and a half mile west of County Rd 21. Directions to the church can be found on www.stmatthewflora.org

No 212 WELS Soccer Camp this summer

After much prayerful consideration, we have decided **not** to hold the 212 WELS Soccer Camp this year. In the end, we were unsure if we could provide adequate staffing for a fun, safe, and productive camp in August of 2020. We will be working diligently to ensure that, God-willing, the 212 WELS Soccer Camp returns in 2021.

Upcoming Meetings:

St. John's Renville - The quarterly meeting at St. John's Renville will be held after worship on Sunday, July 26.

St. Matthew's Danube - The quarterly meeting for St. Matthew's Danube will not be held in July. Instead a quarterly report will be made available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a council member.

Thank you for your continued support

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

***St. Matthew's Danube
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230***

***St. John's Renville
209 Bryant Ave NE
PO Box 416
Renville, MN 56284***

***St. Matthew Flora Twp.
36313 Kenwood Ave
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
(temporary mailing address)***

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you.