

PRELUDE

◇ A time of quiet preparation

Great Is The Lord/ arr. C. Tornquist
How Deep the Father's Love For Us/ arr. M. Hayes
Kathleen Golias, Piano

WORDS OF GREETING

WE APPROACH GOD

IN WORD

Isaiah 55: 1-3a, 6-7 (NIV)

Leader: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

People: **Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.**

Leader: Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.

People: **Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

IN PRAYER

*WE PRAISE OUR GOD

HYMN OF PRAISE 699

Like a River Glorious

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH

Brian Ingraham
I Peter 1:13-25 (NIV)

Leader: Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

People: **As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

Leader: Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you

know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

People: **But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.**

Leader: Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

People: **Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.**

Leader: For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

People: **For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.**

*WE EXALT OUR LORD

WORSHIP SONGS

Leader: The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Psalm 92: 12-15 (NIV)

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY

Clare Wolf, Marumbas

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:1-15 (NIV)

¹ After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, " 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Rev. Thomas E. Nicholas

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **304**

WORDS OF PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Go Forth in Triumph/ F. Ritter

SERMON

Of Seeds and Soil
series: **Jesus and the Parables**