

JULY 12, 2020
SIXTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God delivers abundant harvests.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-112	Light from the Lord's law
Thursday	Genesis 25:19-34	Esau and Jacob
Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Give with generosity
Saturday	Psalms 65:1-13	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. **Psalms 65:5 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of abundant grace and mercy, help us to receive your word of life that we may be your good soil to grow in faith and share your word with others. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for your eternal care that blesses us with daily food through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Through the Spirit of Christ, may you go out in joy, and be led back in peace. (Isaiah 55:12)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

As Rain from the Clouds



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Do you talk about your faith as part of daily conversations? Why or why not?
- Have you ever planted a garden? If so, what was it like?
- How does God's word get planted into your life like a seed planted into good soil?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 55:10-13.

Yes, we have an awesome God, as noted in Psalm 65:5. In Isaiah 55 that awesomeness is expressed through God's word that is powerful. It does what God intends. It is productive. Isaiah 55 announces the return from exile for God's people. God's word, God's will shall accomplish it. This text is often used at the ordination of a pastor or a deacon. However, could we not also use it at weddings, baptisms, and any other occasion that celebrates God's people living together in faith, hope, and love? God's word is given for all of us to speak aloud to one another for our encouragement and growth in life and faith. God's word at a meal creates thankful hearts for the abundance of God's love with daily food. God's word at morning, evening, or at bedtime reminds us of the eternal care of God as those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and for whom there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1 and 11). Let's be wasteful as we cast God's word into all the corners of the earth, landing on all kinds of soil that God's word may sprout and produce an abundant harvest (Matthew 13:23). Who has blessed you with God's word recently? How did it impact your life?

Pray: **Creative God, may the Spirit of Christ create in me the good soil to receive your word and grow in grace. Amen.**

SERVICE



Plants of the earth not only serve as metaphors for the kingdom of God, but of God's life sustaining work in creation. Join a community garden, plant a garden in your own yard, or find a way to support the vital work of local farmers.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields" (Matthew 13:23a). Take a sheet of paper and write "Good Soil" across the bottom. Draw a fruit tree with a trunk, leaves, and fruit. On each drawing of fruit, write different ways you show God's love to others. Read what you have written and think or talk about how your "fruits" help you and others grow in their faith.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org