



Sundays of July, 2008 15th 16th 17th Sundays of Ordinary Time

In Each Seed, Your Promise

Green Prayers from The Northern Plains

So Small, So Strong

O God of endless beauty,
we who live on your land
marvel at your great gifts to us.

We give thanks O God,
for the vastness of your land,
with its waving grass,
its glorious Sun-Flower and its Prairie Rose.

We thank you for the gift of life
found within the seed,
courageous life
which seeks to grow amidst the rocks and the path.

We thank you that your life in the seed
is so strong that it does not give up
when the weeds take away
what little nourishment there is in the soil,
and the sun burns hot and the land is dry.

We thank you O God,
that deep in each seed is your promise
that awaits the hope of the good soil.

O God, you are the sower,
help us to celebrate the awesome power of your seed
that brings new life to the path and the rocks of our journey.

Help us to be stewards of the seed and its promise of life.

May we not only consume the bounty of your harvest
but may we cherish and protect the new seeds that come from it,
for within them is the hope for tomorrow.

Help us, O God, to see within each seed
your re-creative presence
and to treat your land as the altar of our destiny.

We pray in the name of our Redeemer. Amen

July 13, 2008 Matt 13:1 – 9; 18 – 23

Our Due Portion

Bountiful and Loving God,
you sow in the fertile soil of our life
seeds of hope and promise.

You sow within our world the opportunity
to embrace one another
with your life-giving,
life-celebrating,
life re-creating presence.

Forgive us, O God for those times
when in our desire to gain wealth or power or prestige
we sow seeds of abuse and neglect,
for then we disfigure the beauty of your creation
and deny its bounty to brothers and sisters
in the present and the future.

O God, forgive us when in our anxious clamor to get ahead
we sow seeds of distrust and fear.

O God, forgive us when we are so eager to take unto ourselves
greater and greater portions of your harvest,
that we forget that you ask us to be channels
by which your bounty is shared
and new seeds of love and understanding are sown.

O God, walk among us
and calm, we pray, the vexing spirit within,
that we might be caretakers of the seeds of hope that you sow,
that we might cherish the land into which they are planted and
that we might receive, as a gift of your eternal love,
our due portion of the bounty which they bring.

This we ask, O God,
mindful that we are called
to be the Stewards of Your Earth. Amen

July 20, 2008 Matt 13:24 – 30, 36 – 43

Full Measure of Heaven

O God, you place within the smallest
the promise of the greatest.

You assure us O God,
that in the least there is the endless hope
of your eternal love
and your ever present grace.

Help us so to cherish your creation, Bountiful God,
that the small does not get lost
amid the mighty and the forceful.

Dearest God, we pray that in the mustard seed
we might find the full measure of your heaven
and that the small measure of leaven
might be allowed to bring life to the whole.

Help us to live amidst your fragile world, dear God
with such reverence for the bountiful gifts
which you so generously place within it
that we allow the most fragile of seeds to grow:
that your gracious presence might be found
in the air we breathe,
in the grass beneath our feet and
in the beauty before our eyes.

Generous God, may the precious gift of this life truly be for us
the pearl of great price,
which we claim not for ourselves
but reverently pass on
so that others might embrace their treasure.

Guide us, dear God
that we might so love and cherish the bounty of this fertile land
that its treasures great and small
not become the trophy we hoard
but the blessing that we share. Amen

July 27, 2008 Matthews 13:31 – 33, 44 – 52

In Each Seed, Your Promise was written by the Rev. Wade Schemmel, Conference Minister, Northern Plains Conference.



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