



Seward United Methodist Church

11:30 a.m.

April 30, 2023

Gathering Music/Prelude

Sarah Rodocker

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

L: Come, listen, hear the stories that shape our faith.

P: We will be attentive and listen with our hearts and minds.

L: These are the stories Jesus told, the parables that sneak up on us with layers of meaning and mystery and challenge.

P: We will seek beyond easy answers for the deeper truths the parables teach.

Hymn

Step by Step

WS 3004

O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

CCLI Song # 696994
David (Beaker) Strasser
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Common Prayer (in unison)

God of Word and Breath and Life, thank you for the gift of stories that teach us who you are and who you call us to be. Remind us that the best stories are worth repeating time and again and again. Open up to us the parable we hear today. Allow it to teach us anew and strengthen our faith. In the name of Jesus, who first shared the parables. AMEN.

Children's Time

Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm

Scripture Lesson: Mark 4:2-9

² Jesus began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no

grain. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” ⁹ And he said, “If you have ears to hear, then hear!”

Hymn

A Farmer Sowed His Precious Seed

Verse 1

A farmer sowed his precious seed
Upon the path one day
But when the birds came down for food
They snatched it all away
Creator may your word be sown
Deep down within my heart
So when temptation comes my way
It never shall depart

Verse 2

And some he scattered came to rest
On rocky stony ground
But when the sunshine scorched the plants
Not one green shoot was found
Creator may your Word of life
Take root within my heart
So when perplexing trials come
It never shall depart

Verse 3

And other seedlings landed where
Thick brambles sharp with thorn
Sprang up extending far and wide
And choked the tender corn
Creator may your Word of power
Grow strong within my heart
So when the world's distractions come
It never shall depart

Verse 4

But after all the farmer's toil
A crop was brought to birth
As healthy plants grew up from seeds
That fell on fertile earth
Creator, God of harvest come
Your Spirit's grace impart
And may your word for evermore
Be fruitful in my heart

CCLI Song # 5939635

Emma Turl

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Sermon

“Extravagant Sower”

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty

Celebration of Confirmation

Ryer Bartels
Katelyn Crook
Jackie Eberspacher
Jacey Forbes
Kolten Green

Madison Green
Kylee Josoff
Calvin Lavicky
Layne Luebbe
Reagan Meyer

Samantha Quist
Brynlie Robbins
Caden Schadwinkal
Keyan Schadwinkal
Addi Venekamp

Prayers of the People

Prayer Hymn

Lord, Be Glorified

TFWS 2150

¹In our lives, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In our lives, Lord, be glorified today.

²In our homes ...

³In your church ...

⁴In your word ...

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Offering

Special Music
Doxology

Spirit, Come

April Bartels & Meagan Forbes

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Thank you, God, for the greatest of all gifts, the saving action of Jesus Christ in human history. Your gift inspires our generous response. We bring our offerings and renewed commitment. Help us to be faithful disciples. Amen. *(from: "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Lavon Bayler, p. 52)*

Hymn

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Verse 1

It all comes down to this
What you require of me
Love my neighbor as myself
And You above all things

Chorus

Act justly love mercy walk humbly
With You God
In all things in all ways walk humbly
With You God

Verse 2

It all comes down to this
To be Your hands and feet
Good news to all the world
The truth will set us free

Bridge

It's beauty for ashes
It's mourning to dancing
It's closer and closer
The Kingdom of heaven

Verse 3

Years from now we'll see
The fruit our hands have sown
Faith just like a seed
The only way it grows

CCLI Song # 7168697

Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Pat Barrett

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Benediction

Postlude

Sarah Rodocker