

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
July 10, 2019

LET IT RAIN!

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11

The rainy season seems to have fully arrived. Nearly every day, and sometimes more than once in the day, the showers pass overhead. With the rain, along with the heat and humidity, the grass and the weeds are having a "heyday"! All around SW Florida the world is alive and growing; green with a smattering of colorful flowers adding to the beauty. That's what the rain does...it waters the earth making it bring forth sprout, and with all of those sprouts also comes the food that we depend on for survival. That's what God is talking about in the passage above; Isaiah 55:10-11. It's the Lord God who sends the rain (and He throws in snow to placate those stuck in northern climes) and causes all that we need for life to sprout and grow; to bud, bloom and produce a crop. He does the same for us in the spiritual realm and does it in the same way. Just as God sends forth the rain (and snow) He also sends forth His Word for the purpose of giving, feeding and sustaining life...life that unlike that which is physical and mortal will last forever. In the worldly realm God calls farmers to be the stewards of the harvest. Their mission is to prepare the fields, sow the seeds and keep out all harmful weeds, and then at just the right time go out into those fields and bring in the harvest. God empowers the sprouting, growing and ripening, along with the providing of rain (not snow in this case). As the Church we are the spiritual farmers of this world. God has given us His Word...sent it forth from His mouth...to sow into the world, a world that He prepares to be ready to receive the seed of the Gospel. Upon sowing the seeds it's the Holy Spirit that empowers the sprouting and growing of faith. That faith slowly matures and ripens as more and more of God's Word is proclaimed to the hearer. We as the Church benefit from the harvest of such faith as faithful Christians naturally and necessarily bring forth the fruits of faith; *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23a). What a wonderful comfort this passage is to us in the Church, and us in THIS church; Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida. God sends forth His Word with a purpose, and He boldly states that in this Word He will accomplish His purpose, and His Word will succeed in doing that for which He sent it. God has given US His Word; the proclamation of the Gospel, and even if we don't do everything perfectly, even in our human failings, if we are faithful to proclaim His Word it will succeed and accomplish His purpose. As long as we stay true to God's task for us in preaching and teaching the entire revelation of Scripture in its truth and purity, and as long as we point the world to Jesus as the Living Word of God that came into human flesh to live, die and rise again from death to save us from our sins we cannot fail. That's because God cannot and will not fail. I say "Let it rain!" As for the snow...Lord, please send plenty of it to our brothers and sisters in the north.