

16 July 2017 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: Isaiah 55:10–13; Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23.

Mini-series next three Sundays: *Mountain climbing* (Romans 8).

Theme: *Out of the valley* – **Romans 7:24**, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?”

MSG: “I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?”



I. A NEW VERDICT: “NOT GUILTY!”

Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 7:25, “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

John 3:16-17, “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did **not** send his Son into the world **to condemn** the world, **but to save** the world through him.”

Psalms 40:1-2, “I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.”



II. A NEW OS.

Romans 8:2, “For **the law of the Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” *What a beautiful name* (Brooke Ligertwood, Ben Fielding) – “Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You; **You silenced the boast, of sin and grave.**”

Lutheran Study Bible: *law*. “Principle” here, something like today’s “operating system.” = gOSpel.

Illus. I recently installed a new OS onto my laptop. **Restart:** prayer.



III.A NEW MINDSET.

Romans 8:5-6, “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit **set their minds on the things of the Spirit**. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to **set the mind on the Spirit** is life and peace.”

Colossians 3:1-4, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your minds on things above**, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”



IV.A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN.

Romans 8:9, “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact **the Spirit of God dwells in you.**” “**Spirit**” x19 in vss 1-27.

Ephesians 1:18-20, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order **that you may know** the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and **his incomparably great power for us who believe**. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.” **Illustration**: Chicago, 1980.



CONCLUSION: Cf. **Matthew 13:23**, “But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who **hears the word and understands it**. This is the one who **produces a crop**, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” **good soil** – hears the Word, understands it, produces a crop, yielding x100, x60, x30. Out of the valley we grow.