



OUR WORSHIP SERVICE  
JULY 12, 2026

HEAR THEN  
THE PARABLE  
OF THE

*sower*

Matthew 13:18



# american

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# volunteer

Select a Sunday.  
Select a Role.

**BE OF SERVICE.**



## OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

## JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

- \* Worship begins @ 9 am \* Fellowship @ 10 am
- \* Sunday School @ 10 am (September - May)

## Welcome to Worship

### SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## INTRODUCTION

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(Congregation, please stand)*

*\*\*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,  
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**Amen.**

*(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)*

## **GATHERING HYMN** ELW #524 What Is This Place

**GREETING** We welcome all who have come to glorify God in worship. May our hearts reach out to God and to one another in love.

We are glad you are here.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE** pg. 203-204 (*Kyrie & Cantic of Praise*)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Almighty God, **we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Your paths overflow with plenty. (Psalm 65:11)*

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

[<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

**<sup>2</sup>To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

**<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

**<sup>6</sup>You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

**<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

*(Psalm continued on page 5)*

**<sup>10</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

**<sup>12</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*(Congregation, please stand)*

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>"That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and

*(Gospel continued on page 7)*

snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>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 in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #681** We Plow the Fields and Scatter

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*(text is printed in the back cover of the red hymnal)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Petitions end “**God of Grace,**” Congregation responds, “**hear our prayer.**”*

## SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

# OFFERING

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## OFFERTORY **ELW #679** For the Fruit of All Creation (*verse 1 & 2*)

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

Arr. © Oxford University Press

## OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN

ELW #547 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**DISMISSAL** Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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In the parable, the sun rises and scorches the seeds that were scattered on rocky soil, so it is said to represent “trouble or persecution.” However, in his 1888 painting **The Sower at Sunset**, Vincent Van Gogh depicts the sun differently. This sun is setting, not rising, and it doesn’t scorch; instead it shines with a golden, life-giving light. Van Gogh’s sun represents God, our eternal source of light and energy, and through his vibrant colors and dynamic brushwork, we too can experience the confident joy of the sower.



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*connected*



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## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## ONLINE GIVING

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# prayer journal

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." -- Philippians 4:6-7

**GOD, I THANK YOU FOR...**

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**MY THOUGHTS, PRAYERS + HEART**

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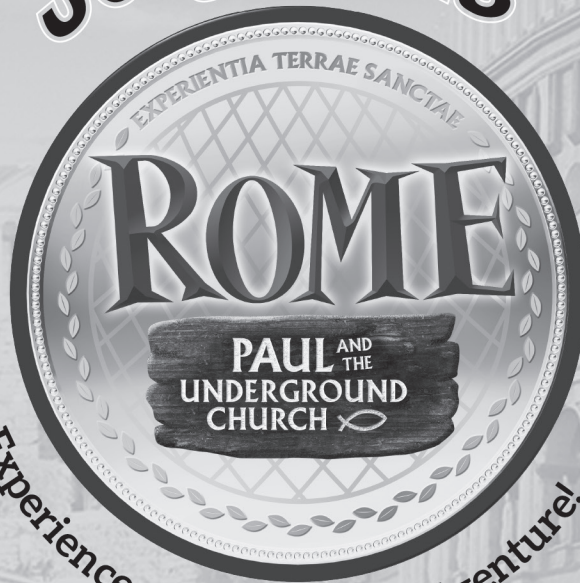
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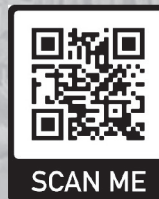


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