

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
July 12th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



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.

- ✝ Preacher – The Reverend Bill Gaskill
- ✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have often served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We many times have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#853 – When Morning Gilds the Skies

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.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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. ¹³ 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 65: 1 - 13

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

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



³ Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **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.**

⁵ 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.



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

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **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.**

⁹ 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.

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

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

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

¹³ 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

¹Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For 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, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For 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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 - 23; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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

¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³But 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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Mind your Mindset

The Reverend Bill Gaskill

HYMN: Yet Not I but through Christ in Me

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer, There is no more for Heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace. To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "all is mine", Yet not I but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior He will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome, Yet not I but through Christ in me.
3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing "I am free". Yet not I but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day, I know He will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, All the glory evermore to Him When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat. Yet not I but through Christ in me.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelms throughout the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our shepherd, we seek Your divine wisdom and guidance in our search for a shepherd to lead us with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

(Additional Petitions may be offered.)

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

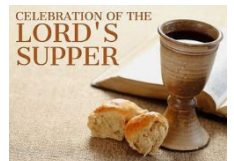
OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge that all things belong to you. Everything we have comes from your hand, and we are merely stewards of your blessings. Help us to recognize your leadership over all aspects of our lives. May these gifts be used to further your kingdom, as a testament to our gratitude and trust in you. Guide us to be faithful stewards, using all that you have given us for your glory. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Almighty and merciful God, you are most holy. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth, and all the wonders of this universe. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. And praise to you for entering this world in Jesus, the anointed one.

We remember on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Grace our table with your presence and with all your creation, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion – Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,
And renew a right Spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, Oh God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, Oh Lord,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
And renew a right Spirit within me.

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COMMUNION HYMN 2: Lord, You are More Precious

Lord, you are more precious than silver,
Lord, you are more costly than gold,
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,
And nothing I desire compares with you,
And nothing I desire compares with you.

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COMMUNION HYMN 3: (ELW 785) When Peace Like a River

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**
2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.
Refrain
3. He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Refrain
4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Closing Prayer - Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

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

CLOSING HYMN: Be Exalted

I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, among the people
I will sing praises to Thee, Among the nations
For Thy steadfast love is great, Is great to the heavens
And Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness to the clouds

CHORUS:

Be exalted, O God, Above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth
Be exalted, O God, Above the heavens
Let thy glory, let thy glory.
Let Thy glory be over all the earth

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

Notes:



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