



July 12, 2026

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

- ♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 790– Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.;  
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## Invocation

Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever,

**The branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I might be glorified.**

*Isaiah 60:21*

They are planted in the house of the Lord;

**They flourish in the courts of our God.**

*Psalms 92:13*

I will rejoice in doing them good,

**And I will plant them in this land in faithfulness.**

*Jeremiah 32:41*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

**And transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of sins.**

*Colossians 1:13–14*

Almighty God and Father,

**We confess, as Your people, our need for Your merciful kindness. We are prisoners of  
our own wants, our own fears, and our own inborn sinfulness. Our actions and  
interactions often fail as reflections of Your kingdom. Our thoughts, desires, and  
actions are often borne out of love for ourselves, rather than our love for others or for  
You. Forgive us and free us, Lord, to love what You love and go where You lead, all by  
the grace of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

“Thy Strong Word” (vv. 1–4)

♪ Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

~Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

♪ Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,

Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath. ~Alleluia...

♪ Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,

Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess. ~Alleluia...

♪ From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conquering might;

From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light. ~Alleluia...

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 55:10–13

<sup>10</sup>“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,

<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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, 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 make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Epistle**

Romans 8:12–17

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“Thy Strong Word” (vv. 5–6)

♪ Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

*Please Stand*

♪ God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 578—Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76;  
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## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

### 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>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him 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 snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

### Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

## The Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.  
~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- ♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ~Great...
- ♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ~Great....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 809—Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960; Text: Public domain*

## Proclamation of the Word

“Living Affects Hearing”

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

## Offering and Musical Offering

**Prayer of the Church** *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## Lord’s Prayer

## Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.  
**Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Recessional Hymn** *Please Be Seated*

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

- ♪ On what has now been sown thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
 The pow’r is Thine alone To make it sprout and grow.  
 Do Thou in grace the harvest raise, And Thou alone shalt have the praise.
- ♪ To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow’rs;  
 Accept what is Thine own And pardon what is ours.  
 Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive, And to Thy Word a blessing give.
- ♪ O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here,  
 May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear  
 And follow Thee to heav’n our home. E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 921 -Text: John Newton 1725-1807; Public domain.*

## Postlude