

***Welcome To Worship
At
Whitnall Park Lutheran Church***



***Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday July 12th, 2026***

Reverend Marcus Kunz will be leading our worship today.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

As the prelude is a time of preparation, please consider quietly meditating on these words of the Psalm during this time of reflection.

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

CALL TO WORSHIP **553 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies Vs 1**

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls us beloved children,
who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, Our risen Lord. Amen.

P: In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN 524 *What Is This Place*

- 1 What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor.
 Walls and a roof sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.
 Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here,
 and know our God is near.
- 2 Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in us like seed:
 names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are
 all we need.
 We in this place remember and speak again what we have heard:
 God's free redeeming word.
- 3 And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared, a living sign.
 Here in this world, dying and living, we are each other's bread and wine.
 This is the place where we can receive what we need to increase:
 our justice and God's peace.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE *ELW 154*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Have mercy O Lord.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is The Feast ELW Setting 4 Pg 149*

Cantor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**All: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set
us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom
and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn
of all creation; Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb
who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *a reading from Isaiah 55:10-13*

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.

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. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65:1-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

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 *a reading from 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.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ 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, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ 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, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead

because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ 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. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light onto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light onto my path.

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,

still you're there right beside me.

And nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow."⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.⁵ 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.⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.⁹ If you have ears, hear!"¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower."¹⁹ When 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.²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky

ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,
²¹ 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.
²² 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.
²³ 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." This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Marcus Kunz

HYMN OF THE DAY 512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and
peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated
at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: 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.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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 overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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 God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERATORY HYMN *ELW 186 Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name,
and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting 10 Pg 207*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy and Mighty Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened His arms to all.

In 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our refilled cups containing the wafer and juice or by intinction in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements. One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.

COMMUNION SONG *195 Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *491 Come, Let Us Eat*

501 Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in His grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ Vs 1 & 3*

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! ***Refrain***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of
salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your
redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus
Christ, Our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give
you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN 547 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace, to love and serve Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

