

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
July 12th, 2026 – Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
Pastor Sarah Mayer-Flatt

Welcome / Announcements

Prelude

Tracy Hoffman

GATHERING *(Please Stand)*

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

The Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

"All are Welcome"

ELW 641 (Vs.1,3,4,5)

The 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.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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

Cross-Generation Message

WORD

First Reading: 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.

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, 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.

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. 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

The Psalm will be read responsively

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

C: To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.

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

C: 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.

A: 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.

C: You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded a bout with might.

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

C: 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.

A: 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.

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

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

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

A: May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- I selves 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.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 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, 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. 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation will please stand as able & comfortable

The 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.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 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. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 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. 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. 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Congregation will please be seated

The Sermon

Pastor Sarah Mayer-Flatt

The Congregation will please stand as able
(Lights on after Sermon)

Hymn of the Day

“Seek Ye First”

WOV 783 (Vs.1-3)

** Pass Info Slips to Side Aisle and Prayer cards to the inside aisle*

Apostles Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 into hell.
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 the People

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: receive 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; receive 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: receive our prayer.

A: 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 (*especially*). God of grace,

C: receive 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: receive our prayer.

A: We bring now the prayers sitting quietly in our hearts, and the ones we need to speak aloud.

(pause)

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

“God Bless To Us Our Bread”(twice)

ACS1056

Offering Prayer

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and grave, by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way to everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth, the hosts of heaven, and all creation that sings of your glory, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

“You Are Holy”

ELW 525

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, you so loved the world that you gave your Son, that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life. 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. Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O God, 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 honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God	<i>Lamb of God</i>	ELW 195
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Communion Distribution

Communion Hymns	<i>“Amazing Grace”</i>	ELW 779 (1-4)
	<i>“Jesus Loves Me”</i>	ELW 595 (1-3)
	<i>“When Peace Like a River”</i>	ELW 785 (1-4)
	<i>“Savior Like a Shepherd”</i>	ELW 789 (1-4)

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

(The Congregation will please stand as able and comfortable)

Pastor’s Blessing

Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn	<i>“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”</i>	ELW 543 (1-3)
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God.