

A close-up photograph of a hand pouring a stream of small, light-colored seeds into the air. The background is a warm, golden sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The seeds are captured in mid-air, creating a sense of motion.

How many seeds does it take?

Matthew 13:1-9

Credit: ChurchLeadership.com

First Lutheran Church

July 12, 2026

Pentecost 7

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GOOD SOIL

Marilyn Biery

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

MORNING PRAYER

The assembly stands.

AM: 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.

OPENING

Leader: O Lord, o - pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,

and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PSALMODY

INVITATORY

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE

PSALM 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us

shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

FINAL INVITATORY

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: 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.

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

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.

AM: A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-fifth chapter.

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,

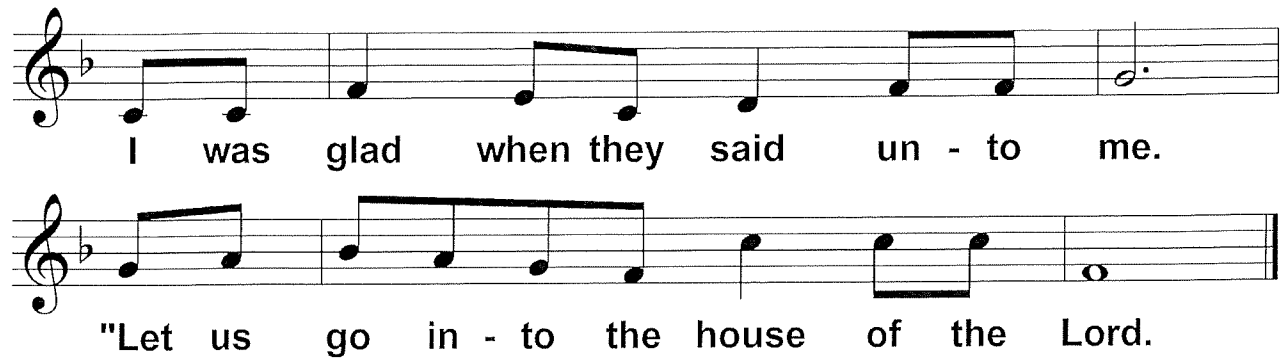
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Cantor will sing the verses:

¹ I was glad when they | said unto me, "Let us go into the house | of the Lord."

² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;

⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. **Refrain**

⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you. **Refrain**

⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.

⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good." **Refrain**

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.

AM: A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

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.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

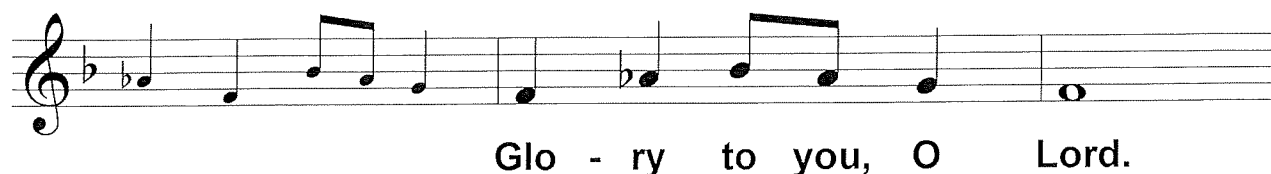
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Cantor sings the verse: The word is very¹ near to you; it is in your mouth and¹ in your heart. (Deut. 30:14)*

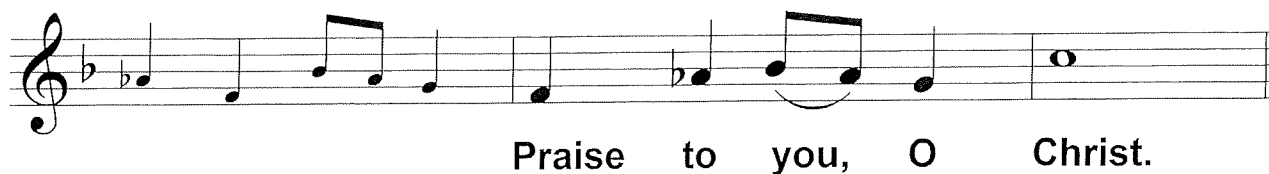
In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

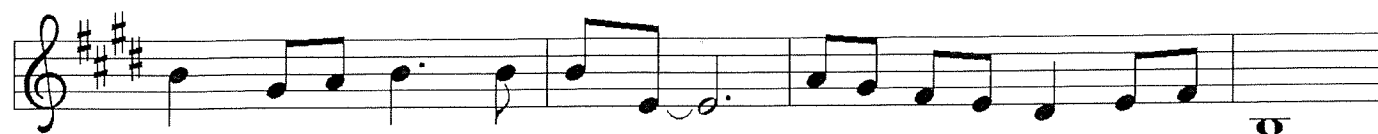
PM: The Gospel according to Matthew.



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."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.





Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. 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.

The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

PASTOR MARK SCHURING

The assembly stands.

CANTICLE

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our
God the dawn from on high shall
break up - on us.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

APOSTLES' CREED

PM: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

Henry Kihlken

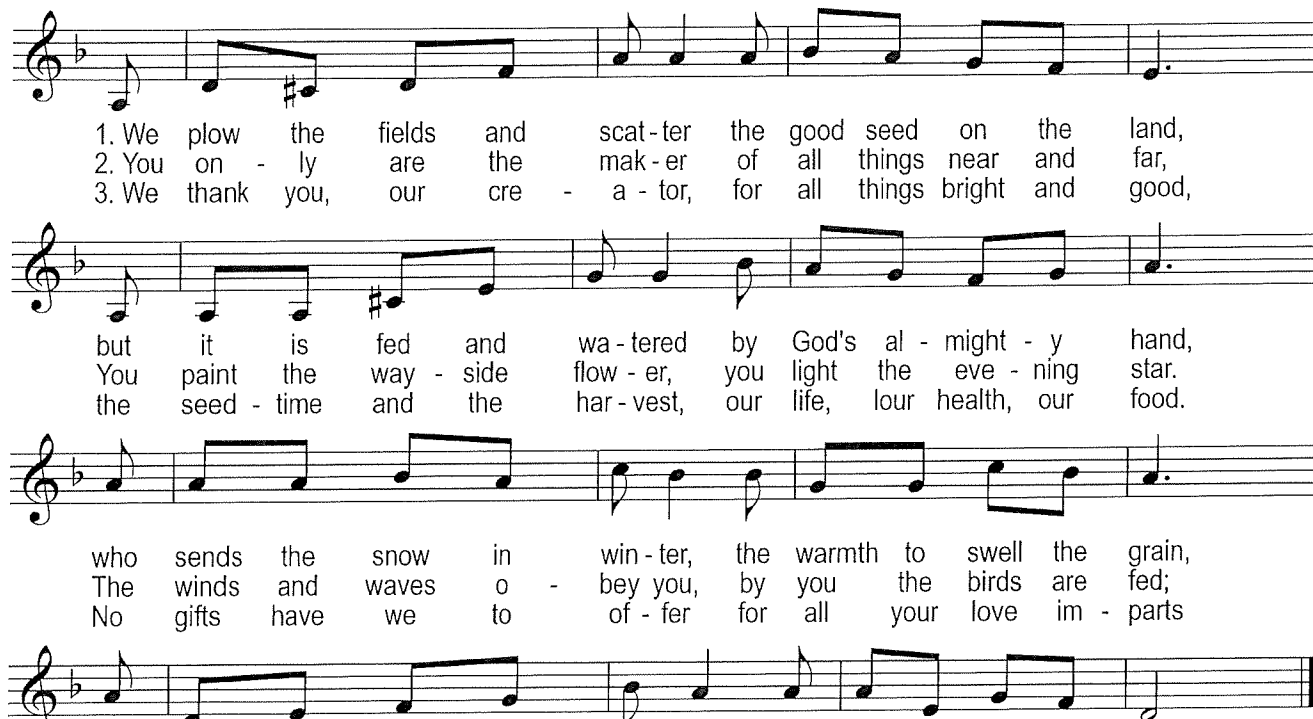
*Baroque Suite for Organ
V. Aria*

The assembly stands.

OFFERING SONG

WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

ELW # 680



1. We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,
2. You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far,
3. We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: 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.

C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: 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.

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

Each petition concludes:

PM: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

PM: 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.

The assembly stands.

LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

AM: We Pray together:

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

We are grateful for your goodness
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.

Bless our community of faith,
bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us
through this time of transition.

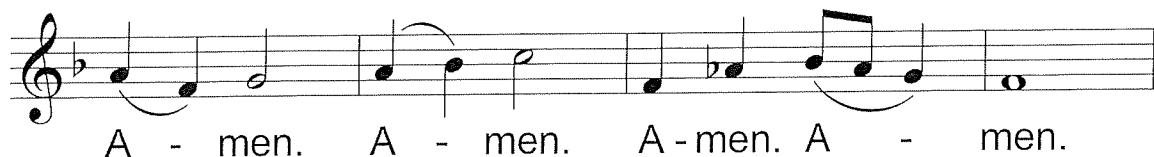
We thank you for the wisdom you show us.

Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.

Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.

BLESSING

AM: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
+ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.





1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

AM: Heaven has come near.

PM: Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

THE ASH GROVE

*Triptych on THE ASH GROVE
Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

David M. Cherwien

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	July 12
10:00 AM	Pentecost 7
<u>Monday</u>	July 13
10:00 AM	NO Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	July 14
<u>Wednesday</u>	July 15
5:30PM	Council Mtg
<u>Thursday</u>	July 16
<u>Friday</u>	July 17
<u>Saturday</u>	July 18

Don't forget to fill out the survey.

Your input is very important for the future of our church.

Now is the time to express yourself

**Deadline has been extended
until July 12!!.**



July Monthly Scroll

Is available on line and on table in hallway



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Information Board in the hallway. The time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	July 19
10:00 AM	Pentecost 8
<u>Monday</u>	July 20
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
<u>Tuesday</u>	July 21
<u>Wednesday</u>	July 22
<u>Thursday</u>	July 23
1:00 PM	WOFB
<u>Friday</u>	July 24
<u>Saturday</u>	July 25

LAWN MOWER OF THE WEEK

Jim Ruess



The Giving Tree Project

Mulch—Thank you to those who have contributed!

Only \$1605 yet to go.

Contact Us



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Facebook Camera	The Rosses
Host	Janet Zirger
Reader:	Jonathan Nominee
Worship Assistant	Jonathan Nominee
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Our Mission Statement

"God is among us!"

**"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need."**

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July 12, 2026