

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

July 11-12, 2026

4:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Sunday



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

FREE, FAITHFUL, FLOURISHING

AS WE GATHER

Having Any gardener will admit they have seen certain plants flourish while others fail. The plants don't get a choice in the matter. A plant cannot affect the amount of sunlight, moisture, or attention it receives. It simply grows the way it was designed to. You have been planted by the Lord in His garden. You have seen the light of His Gospel, been watered in Baptism, and been nourished by heaven's food. You have been designed to flourish! A pear tree doesn't grow pumpkins, and neither do the redeemed fall back into fear or slavery. You are the harvest of the Lord. We grow to His glory.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Prelude "Blessed Jesus at Your Word" Jim Vyhanek

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty" *LSB 901*
Verses 1-3, 5

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 60:21; Psalm 92:13; Jeremiah 32:41*

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

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

Pastor: They are planted in the house of the LORD;

People: **they flourish in the courts of our God.**

Pastor: I will rejoice in doing them good,

People: **and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness.'**



CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Colossians 1:13–14*

Pastor: The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

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

Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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 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.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: Our hearts cry, "Abba! Father!"

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: To Jesus, our Brother, we plead.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Through the Spirit who seals our adoption:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE (4:00 only) "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

LSB 904

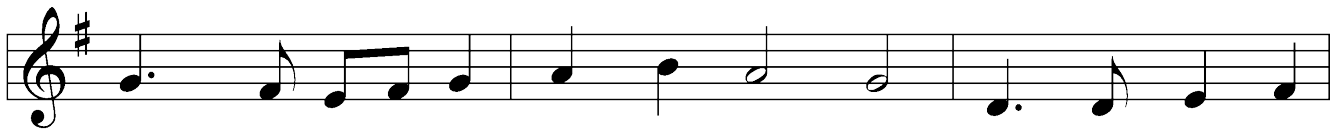
Verses 1-3



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;

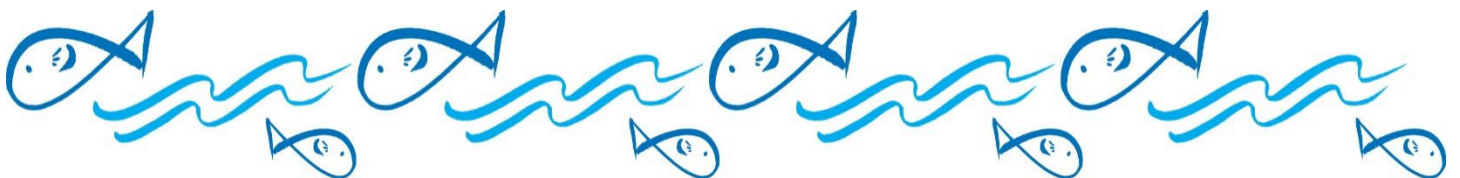


Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Tune and text: Public Domain



SONGS OF PRAISE (9:00 – Praise Team and Congregation)

Song (9:00 only)

FOREVER

Tomlin

Give thanks to the Lord—Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise
With a mighty hand—And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn—His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise
Forever God is faithful—Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us—Forever forever
From the rising to the setting sun—His love endures forever
And by the grace of God—We will carry on
His love endures forever—Sing praise sing praise

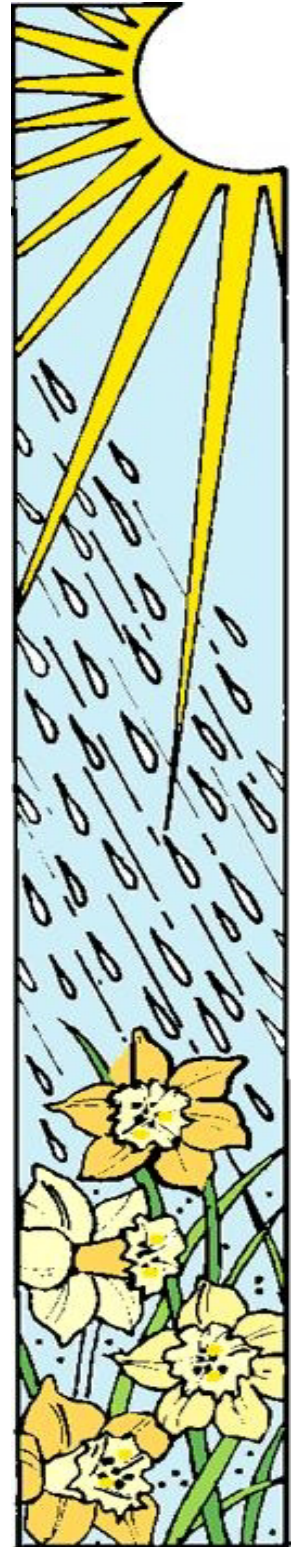
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Song (9:00)

GREAT ARE YOU LORD

Leonard | Ingram | Jordan

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only **(Repeat from Beginning)**
And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord **(Repeat)**
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only



✂ WORD ✂

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

(The Lord's powerful Word sets His people free in joy and singing.)

**“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,
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.
“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.
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.”**

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

(Set free by the Spirit, believers are challenged to recognize their adoption into the family of God.)

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE *Isaiah 40:8*

Pastor: Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades,

People: but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

(Jesus shares and interprets His story of the lavish sower and the harvest He seeks.)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as

he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 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, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

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Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him 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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 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. 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. 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

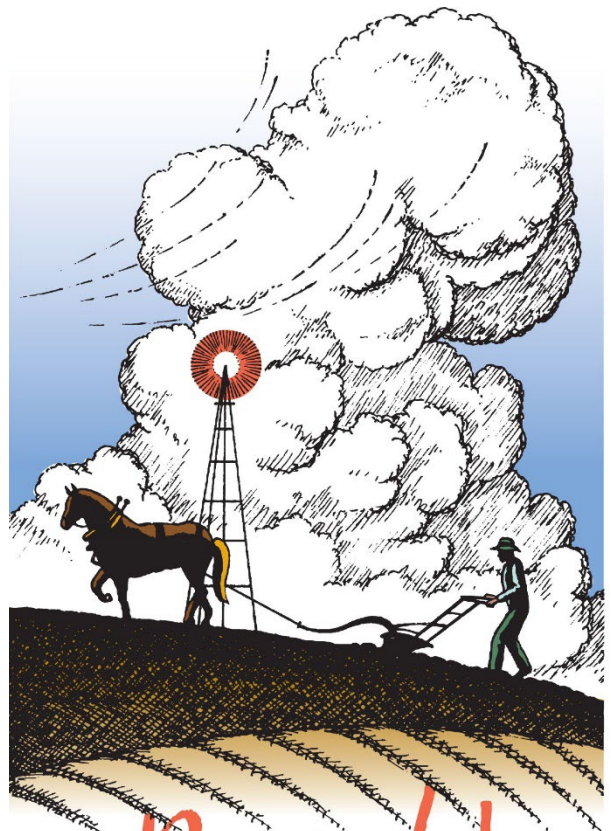
Children’s Message (9:00)

Stephanie Roettjer

Hymn of the Day

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

LSB 577



THE Parable OF THE SOWER

Sermon

“Living with God’s Word in Your Life”

Guest Preacher: Rev. Larry A. Alb

Text: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Apostles’ Creed

(found at the back of the hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: With one voice, the church cries out,

People: “Abba! Father!”

Pastor: Heavenly, holy Father, we praise You for Your unending mercies, shown in Your loving faithfulness. Give us grateful hearts that seek to praise You for Your fatherly goodness.

People: Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind, compassionate Father, You made a place for us within Your family through the sending of Your Son. May our hearts, likewise, resemble Yours, mercifully caring for one another in our fellowship.

People: Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Sending, seeking Father, who received us through the Spirit of adoption, we pray with urgency for those who have yet to hear the Gospel, and for those who have ignored or rejected Your Word, that souls would be saved and the harvest might increase.

People: Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lavish, loving Father, for those given to share Your Word, we give You thanks. Bless all pastors and all those who faithfully teach Your truth, and grant that the garden of Your church produce abundant workers who will join You in Your mission.

People: Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Powerful, purposeful Father, Your Word accomplishes its goal and brings peace and joy to Your people, even as they suffer. Bring them healing and defend them in faith.

People: Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

(Other intercessions may be added here)

Pastor: Forever faithful Father, secure us in hope and faithfulness, that we might flourish in the places You have planted us, until the harvest that comes with the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!

Offering (4:00 pm - collected in back; 9:00 am – collected in the pews)

Offering Music (9:00 – Praise Team and Congregation)

GOODNESS OF GOD

Johnson / Cash et al.

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

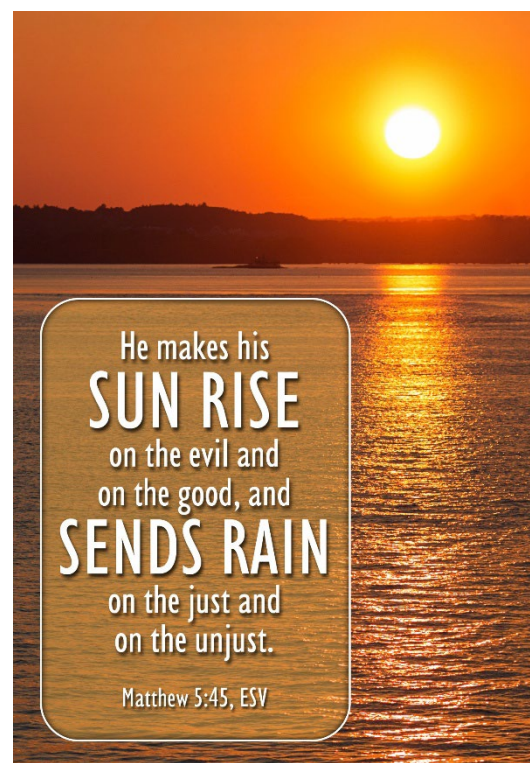
CHORUS

**All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God**

I love Your voice You have led me through the fire
In darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a father I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God **CHORUS**

Your goodness is running after It's running after me
Your goodness is running after It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now
I give You everything Your goodness is running after
It's running after me **(Repeat)**

CHORUS



Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson CCLI Song #7117726 © 2018 Capitol CMG Paragon; SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia; Fellow Ships Music; So Essential Tunes; Bethel Music Publishing For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #1903595

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People: 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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Special Organ Music (4:00) "Come Thou Fount" Austin C. Lovelace

Hymn (4:00) "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" *LSB 686*

Song (9:00 – Praise Team and Congregation)

O Come To The Altar

Chris Brown

Are you hurting and broken within Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

**CHORUS: O come to the altar The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with The precious blood of Jesus Christ**

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling **CHORUS X2**

Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Oh what a Savior Isn't he wonderful Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him For he is Lord of all Sing alleluia Christ is risen **CHORUS X2**

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Song (9:00 – Praise Team and Congregation)

Nothing But the Blood

Lowry
BOB 169

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

**Chorus: Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.



General Communion Blessing

Benediction

(Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen

Closing Hymn "On What Has Now Been Sown"

LSB 921

RECOGNITION OF REV. MICHAEL ZEHNDER (9:00)

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "On What Has Now Been Sown"

J. Wayne Kerr



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PASTOR
PREACHER / CELEBRANT
MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP
ORGANIST
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER
ELDERS
ACOLYTES
LECTORS
COMMUNION SERVER
ALTAR GUILD

Pastor John Larson
Pastor Larry A. Alb
Rev. Michael Zehnder
Nancy Nordby
Stephanie Roettjer
4:00 Jeff Dunker; 9:00 David Pearman
9:00 Abby Williams
4:00 Anita Baresel; 9:00 Clyde Wiggins
4:00 Jeff Dunker; 9:00 Arvin Michel
Sharon Seible, Barbara Rutter



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