

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 12, 2026

*RINGING OF THE BELLS + WELCOME TO
WORSHIP!*

901 OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
 Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

- 2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
 Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
 There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
 Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
 Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
 Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
 While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our

unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

**C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,**

**Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
“Amen!” our glad reply.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah,
chapter 55.

¹⁰“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,
¹¹so 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.

¹²“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.

¹³Instead 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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 8:12–17

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 8.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For 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!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat
beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him,
so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole
crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many
things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow.

⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³As 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

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

SERMON

577 ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST

1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast
 Like seed into the ground;
 Now let the dew of heav'n descend
 And righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not the sly satanic foe
 This holy seed remove,

But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ
Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Lord, Your Word does not return to You
empty but accomplishes Your purpose. By Your
Spirit, make our hearts good soil for Your Word,
that by such faith we may bring forth in our lives

the good works to which You have called us. Lord,
in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of life, continue to sow Your Word through
the fields of the earth. Bless pastors and
missionaries as they proclaim Your truth. Prepare
the hearts of all who hear to believe and yield
abundant fruit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, bless parents with faithfulness
as they plant Your Word into their children, that
they may grow steadfast among the cares and
troubles of this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, all the nations of the earth are
Yours, and besides You there is no other God.
Give our leaders the desire for peace and stability
and the ability to govern wisely. Let them plead the
cause of widows and orphans and serve the needs

of the least among us. Bring an end to war and strife, and allow all to live in peace and safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, look with mercy upon those who suffer from illness of body or mind. [*Be especially with _____.*] Give them healing. Comfort them with Your presence. Grant them patience to endure suffering, and assure them at all times that they are Your dear children and that the glory of Christ awaits them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy God, You provide bread for the eater and Your Word for our salvation. By Your grace, give us this day Your Son's body and blood, that we may have joy and peace in God's loving care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful Lord, we give You thanks for the many blessings You pour out upon us. Preserve us by Your Word, that our faith might not be choked by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches, but that we may use all Your gifts in faithful service to You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

LSB 208

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
 Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the
 glory of Your name.
 Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to
 the Lord;
 Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the
 Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all
 creation, for You have had mercy on us and given
 Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in
 Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the
 sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit,
 and You justly barred them and all their children
 from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You
 promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son,
 Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-
 giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

**☐ 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

712 SEEK YE FIRST

**1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you!
Allelu, alleluia!**

**2 Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

3 Man does not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,
Allelu, alleluia!

Text: Karen Lafferty, 1948

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790 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

1 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!

2 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?

- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 211

**☐ 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav’nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God’s triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

921 ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN

- 1 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!

- 2 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.

- 3 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!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

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