

FIRST LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.

MATTHEW 13:23



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026

Welcome



Worship Series: What Makes Christians Different? July 12, 2026

The Bible says Christians are different. Christians are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. But they often look the same as those who do not believe in Jesus. How are Christians different? The answer is often something internal, attitudes or perspectives that come only from the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament. Ultimately, Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says Christians do, things that make Christians different.

Today's Focus: Christians Are Planted by the Word

Planting seed by hand can be extraordinary. In your hand, the seed looks lifeless and insignificant. You put the seed into the soil, and suddenly, all by itself, the seed germinates and sprouts and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds, and often only some will grow.

The Bible describes Christians as planted by the Word. Why do some people grow in faith, and not others? What makes Christians different? The Bible describes the supernatural process by which God calls people to faith through the gospel. He promises that his Word always accomplishes his purpose. It is powerful all on its own, without our help. As we grow in faith, we give God thanks for the miracle of his work in our lives.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Preaching Minister:** Pastor Kenneth Frey

Accompanist: Robert Joseph | **Elder:** Jacob Pelas

Altar Guild: Kris Hills and Connie Frey | **Projectionist:** Judy Gifford

Opening Hymn

819 If God Himself Be for Me



1 If God him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;
2 This I be - lieve, yea rath - er, of this I make my boast,
3 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood
4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, de - liv - ered me from death;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con - found - ed, fly.
that God is my dear Fa - ther, the friend who loves me most,
a - lone are my sal - va - tion, my true, e - ter - nal good.
he is the Lord who cleans - es my soul from sin through faith.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,
and that, what - e'er be - tide me, my Sav - ior is at hand
With - out him all that pleas - es is val - ue - less on earth;
In him I can be cheer - ful, cou - ra - geous on my way;



what foe or what dis - as - ter can drive me from his love?
thro' storm - y seas to guide me and bring me safe to land.
the gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone have price - less worth.
in him I am not fear - ful of God's great Judg - ment Day.

- 5 Now no one can condemn me
or set my hope aside;
now hell no more can claim me,
its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me,
no guilt destroys my peace,
for Christ, my Savior, loves me
and shields me with his grace.

- 6 No danger, thirst, or hunger,
no pain or poverty,
no earthly tyrant's anger
shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder,
you are my Savior true;
no fire or sword or thunder
shall sever me from you.
- 7 My heart for joy is springing
and can no more be sad;
my soul is filled with singing,
sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
is Jesus Christ, my King;
the heav'n I shall inherit
makes me rejoice and sing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; (sts. 1, 4–5, 7): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907; (sts. 2–3, 6): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887
Tune: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our
sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

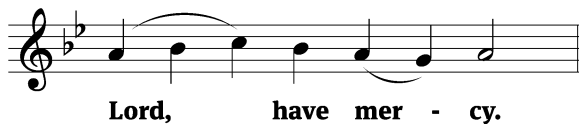
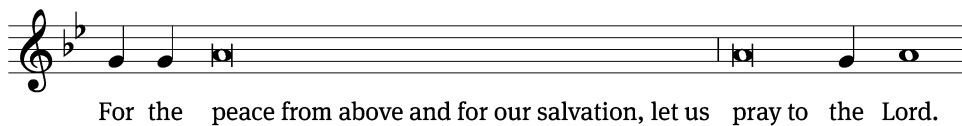
**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned
against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you
with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your
punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my
sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.**

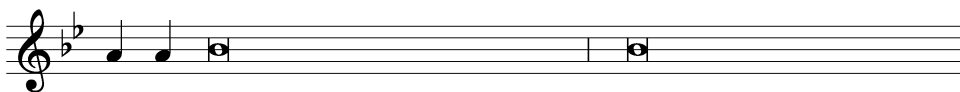
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the $\dagger$ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



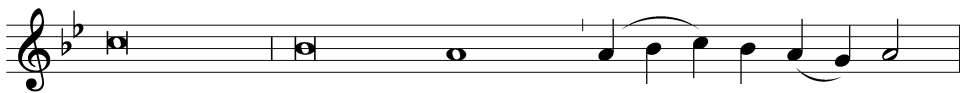
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1984, 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: HYFRYDOL



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our



loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed - for your



grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the



joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Text: Michael A. Perry
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard
Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282
Tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6–11

God's Word produces the fruit that God desires.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65

Refrain



The seed that falls, that falls on good ground
will bring forth food for all.

Tone



Praise awaits / you, our God;
you call forth / songs of joy.
You care for the land and / water it;
you soften it with showers and / bless its crops.
The streams of God are filled with / water
to provide the peo- / ple with grain. *Refrain*

You crown the year with your / bounty,
and your carts overflow with a- / bundance.
The whole earth is / filled with awe
at your / wonders.
The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are man- / tled with
grain;
they shout for / joy and sing.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Text: David Haas, alt.
Tune: David Haas, alt.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

We sow the seed of God's Word, but only he can make it grow.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 55:11

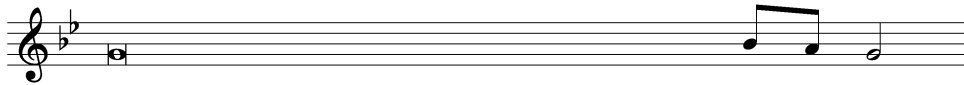


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I de - sire



Refrain

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

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Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9,18–23

Jesus pictures ministry as a planter scattering seed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

644 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt.
Tune: The CL Psalms of David, Edinburgh, 1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

The Sacrament

Preface



The Lord be with you.



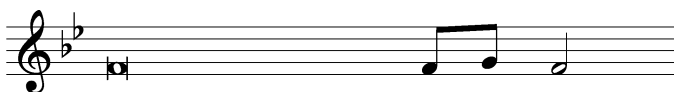
And al - so with you.



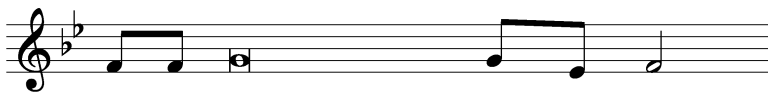
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Tune: Marty Haugen
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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The first staff contains an instrumental introduction. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!' The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Distribution Hymn

633 Speak, O Lord

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights

of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the

deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.

that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll

love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your

fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
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Distribution Hymn 660 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face



1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
 4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
 this is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
 an - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
 mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.



here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



and all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 the brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
 my strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
 your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

- 5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
 The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
 nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.
- 6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, abr., alt.
 Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

925 On What Has Now Been Sown

1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing, Lord, be -
2 To you our wants are known; from you are all our
3 O grant that each of us now met be - fore you

stow; the pow'r is yours a - lone to make it
pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own and par - don
here may meet to - geth - er thus when you and

spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -
yours ap - pear and fol - low you to heav'n, our

raise and you a - lone shall have the praise!
ceive and to your Word a bless - ing give.
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, adapt., alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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