



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 12, 2026

AS WE GATHER



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.

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN

577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Al - might - y God, Your Word is cast Like
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe This
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, Life -

seed in - to the ground; Now let the dew of
ho - ly seed re - move, But give it root in
ris - ing plant de - stroy, But let it yield a
giv - ing grace be - stow That all whose souls the

heav'n de - scend And righ - teous fruits a - bound.
ev - 'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.
hun - dred - fold The fruits of peace and joy.
truth re - ceive Its sav - ing pow'r may know.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever,
C the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I might be glorified.
- P** They are planted in the house of the LORD;
C they flourish in the courts of our God.
- P** I will rejoice in doing them good,
C and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness.

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

Please kneel or sit. Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness
C and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- P** Almighty God and Father,
C 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.
- P** 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 called and ordained 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.
- C** Amen.

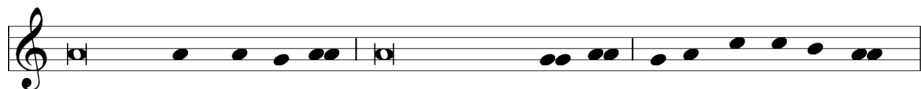
Please stand



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



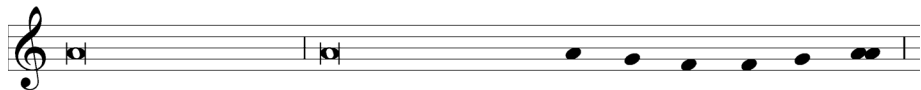
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



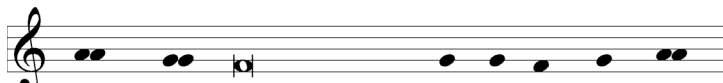
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: Gloria in Excelsis



A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



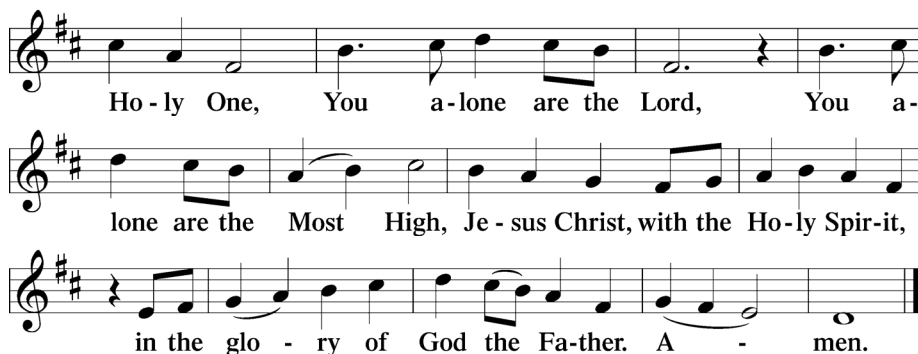
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the



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.

Please sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10–13

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.

PSALM

Psalms 65:9–13; antiphon: v. 5

L You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.

C You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges, softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

L You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

C The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

L the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

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.



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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.

Please sit

SERMON HYMN

578 Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76

Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944

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Please stand

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.

Please kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P With one voice, the church cries out,

C “Abba! Father!”

P 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.

C Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

P 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.

C Abba, Father, hear our prayer.

P 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.

C **Abba, Father, hear our prayer.**

P 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.

C **Abba, Father, hear our prayer.**

P Powerful, purposeful Father, Your Word accomplishes its goal and brings peace and joy to Your people, even as they suffer [*especially....*] Bring them healing and defend them in faith.

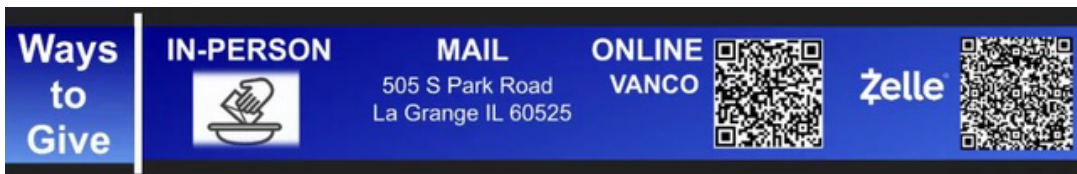
C **Abba, Father, hear our prayer.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

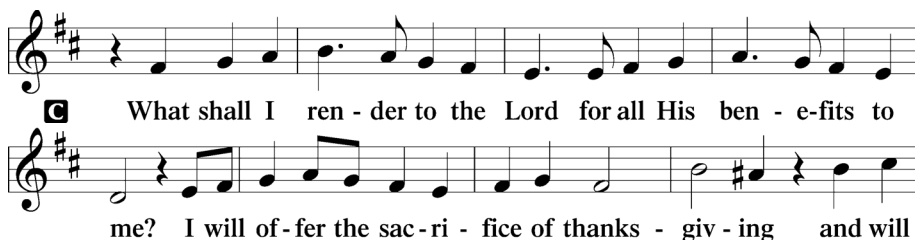
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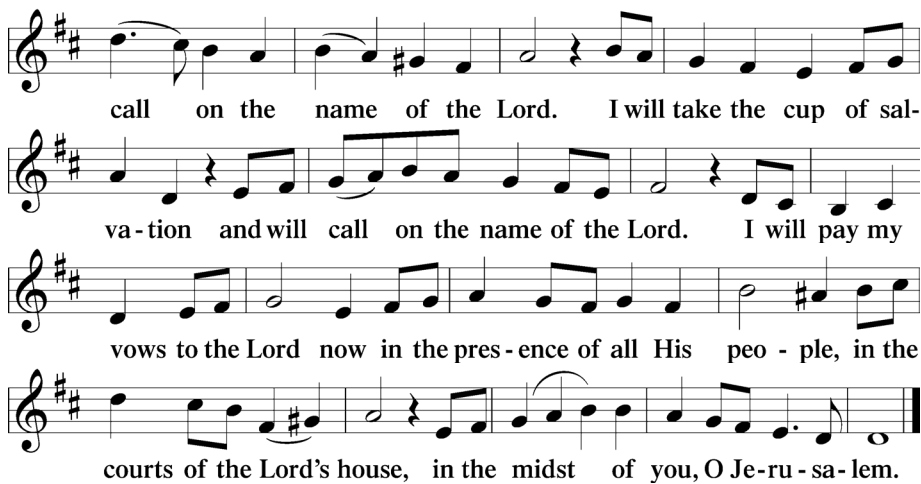


Please stand

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19





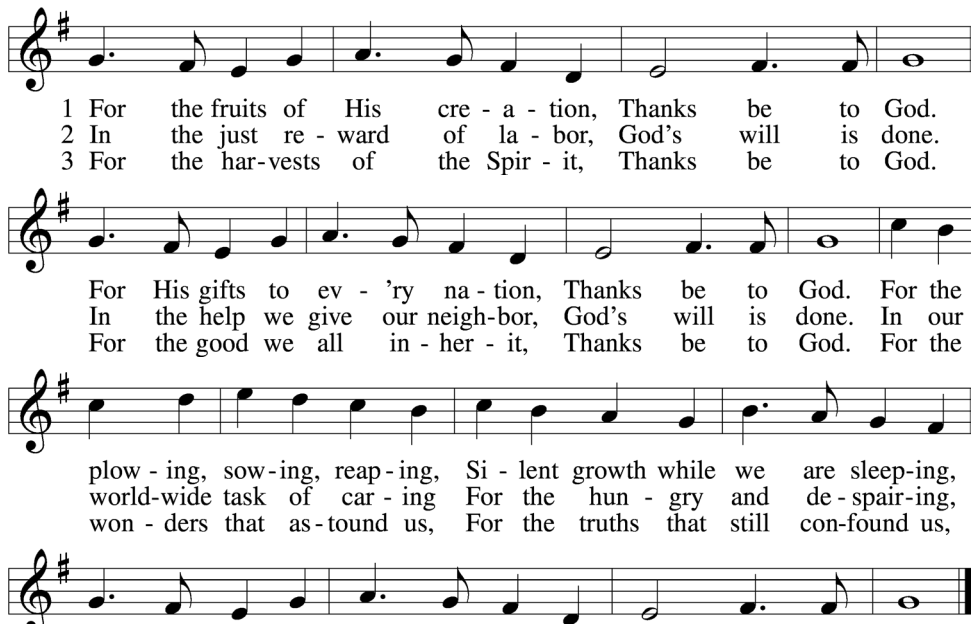
LORD'S PRAYER

- [P]** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- [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.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

- [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.



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the

plow - ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
world-wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair-ing,
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con-found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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Please sit

MISSION UPDATE FROM ST. MATTHEW’S LUTHERAN OF CHICAGO

Elizabeth Fuentes Leonardo, Representative

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Ron Wiedler, Homilist

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Nancy Mayor, Lector | 8:00am

Dr. Kirk Farney, Lector | 10:45am

MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is made possible through the generous support of our congregation by contributions to the Music Fund. These gifts enable us to provide inspiring sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—time, talent, and treasure—are essential to sustaining and strengthening our music ministry. In that spirit, the Board of Worship invites you to prayerfully consider supporting the Music Fund. White contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and gifts may also be made online.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the Music Fund this year. Your generosity helps ensure that the gift of sacred music continues to inspire our congregation and enhance our worship for years to come.

Anonymous Donors

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Winnefred Yelke

Stephen Zimmerman

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