

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 16, 2023

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit, and the continued growth given by our gracious God.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or Spirit

Opening Sentences

- P** O Lord, open our lips,
C and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
- A** Blessed God, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
C that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
- P** Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,
C who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.

Gathering Song

What is This Place

ELW 524

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

- P** The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray... Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
C 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. Amen.

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.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**:

¹⁰For 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,
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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For 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.

¹³Instead 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.

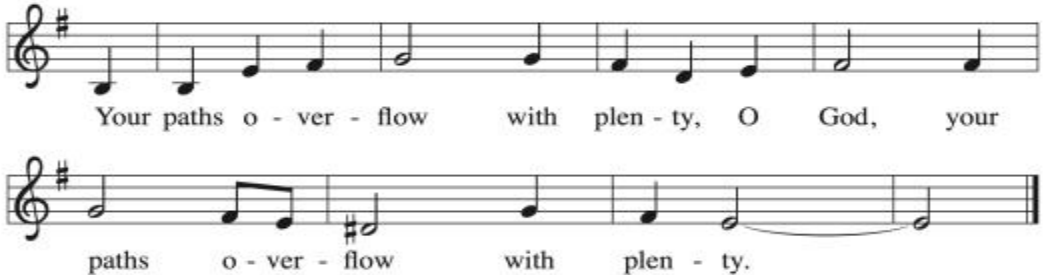
📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13



Refrain



¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. R

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. R**

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing. R

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.

📖 A reading from **Romans:**

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For 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, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For 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. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew**.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, 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 brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on 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 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. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Receive our prayer, O God.** The assembly prays, **You give us mercy.***

▲ Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

▲ Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David, our synod companions Zion Lutheran Church, Freeland; Green Street United Methodist, Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Receive our prayer, O God.

☑ **You give us mercy.**

▲ Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Receive our prayer, O God.

☑ **You give us mercy.**

▲ Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Receive our prayer, O God.

☑ **You give us mercy.**

▲ Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Heal those who are sick, O God especially *Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Sharon Bolton, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements,*

Pat Wales DePew, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Lisa Golnek, Tina Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Martha Mizak, Lisa Nurenberg, Abbie Osborn (pregnancy), Corrina Palmer, Ricky Palmer, Sherry Palmer, Annette Poholski, Kathy Politis, Patty Renne, Theresa Strefling, Randy Teegardin, Al Throop, the Family of Matt Wilke, and Erika Wood. Receive our prayer, O God.

G You give us mercy.

A Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Receive our prayer, O God.

G You give us mercy.

A Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter.

G You give us mercy.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

G Amen.

Arise in body or spirit.

Offering Song

Let the Vineyards

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are: "Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come." The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and a final double bar line.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, O God, for the greening earth given for all, for the talents we are given to share, and for this bread and wine.
- G** **Transform us to be the body of Christ, that, feasting on this food and drink, our lives may reflect your generosity; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- G** **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

Table Prayer

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,'. The second staff continues with 'Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are'. The third staff contains 'full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The fourth staff contains 'Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the'. The fifth staff concludes with 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music features various note values, rests, and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff.

- Ⓟ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.
- Ⓞ **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**
- Ⓟ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Ⓟ Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Ⓟ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,
- Ⓞ **we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- Ⓟ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- Ⓞ **so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**

☐ Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ Amen

Lord's Prayer

☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

☐ God invites you to this table of bounty. Come, the banquet is ready.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Lamb of God

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

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

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

Communion Songs

God of the Fertile Fields

ACS 1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
- Ⓑ **Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- ☐ God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- ☑ Amen.

Sending Song

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

Sending

- ☐ Go in peace. Christ is sending you.
- ☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

No Seeds Wasted

Throughout history, people have looked at the growth of plants from seed to seed and seen that as an illustration of God's work in the world. Everything else comes in limited supply, but it's fairly easy to observe that from just one seed, you can get dozens of seeds—or even more. Who but God could make so much out of so little? Even if we understand the mechanisms of growing plants and know that those extra seeds aren't really coming from nowhere, we still don't have total control of the process.

Jesus compares the different ways seeds might develop to the various ways people might respond to hearing the good news. Just as many different factors can affect seeds, many factors affect people.

It's easy to assume that the ideal scenario is the one that produces the biggest harvest. But God also cares for the birds that eat the seeds. God can use the short-lived plants in rocky soil to enrich the earth, slowly making it more suitable for growth. Is it possible that none of the seeds was really wasted?

What if the same thing is true whenever people hear the good news? What if an obvious harvest of large numbers isn't always the best sign that God is working? What if we assumed that, no matter what results we see, God is always working in the world? How would that change the way we gather, the way we share good news, the way we care about one another?

What if the seeds of God's word cannot be wasted? God's word cannot be limited, or used up, or shut out, or shut in. Even if we somehow manage to throw away all of God's word in the world, God is always sending more. God is always sending Jesus!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Roof Update Starting tomorrow morning, July 17, the roof replacement will begin. Dumpsters will be placed close to the building as the old shingles are removed. The office will be open as usual, but parking will be at the north end of the lot as to keep cars out of the construction area. Thank you for your understanding as we undergo this important project.

Prayer Chain Grace has an activated prayer chain. If you want to be a part of the prayer chain, or have a request for prayer, please text or call Patti Comp at 248.408.5613.

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the ONE who continues to call each one of us. We know that we are at different stages of life representing each seed that is described in the Gospel. Let us know God's love for us at each stage.



Stewardship Information

Attendance: 56	Views: 170
Weekly Giving: \$7,275.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Noisy Offering: \$48.27	Books for Kids: \$80.00
Social Activities: \$200.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$9,240.65	- Note starting need was \$25,000.00
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 450.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$8,790.65

Mark Your Calendar On August 20th the social activities committee is planning on going to the Cereal City Band Concert at 3:00 pm with a tour of the Kellogg House prior to the concert. There is no charge. We plan to leave the church in a carpool at 1:30 pm and will stop for food after the concert. Sign-up sheet to follow.

Adult Forum studies normally studies Proverbs in the Gathering Area at 9:30 a.m., but today is the Annual Meeting. See you next week!

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

The Annual Grace Auto Show is July 30, 2023. We will be having a combined service at 10:00 a.m. Please invite your friends and neighbors to this fun event.

Giving Envelopes In an effort to save money and resources, we are trying to reduce the number of giving envelopes we order for 2024. **If you do not need envelopes** for the coming year, please write your name on the list in the Gathering Area. Thank you to all who have signed the list.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
 Lector – Jamie Heise
 Cantor – Ken Scheck II
 Musician – Jeanette Markwart
 Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
 Lector – Paul Kuhlman
 Cantor – Mary Kuhlman
 Musician – Jeanette Markwart
 Pastor – Ken Scheck II
 Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman