

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2026

“God’s Word Works”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #901 *“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en; Let me keep Thy
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
gift di - vine, How - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en;
done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
May Thy Word still o'er me shine As my guid - ing
While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
star through life, As my com - fort in all strife.
foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: When we were overwhelmed by sins, You forgave our transgressions. *(Psalm 65:3)*

C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:9)*

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Almighty and all merciful God,

C: We confess to You that we are sinners. We share in the fall of Adam, as does the whole creation, in bondage to decay and sin. We have sinned against You in thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed to receive Your Word with joy and have often hardened our hearts. We have let the devil rob us of devotion to You. We have permitted the cares of this world to overwhelm us. Forgive our sin through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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 be seated)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 19 *(selected verses)*

P: The instruction of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul;

C: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;

the just decrees of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

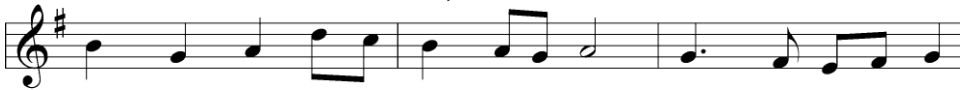
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is Your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

THE HYMN #545 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, One with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; Deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the
Loose our tongues to tell Your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, Heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:10-13 (ESV)

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 8:12-17 (ESV)

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE *(tune: “You Are the Way; through You Alone” LSB #526)*

Alleluia, Lord plant the seed—Your Word—within our hearts.

And make it grow and bear much fruit To glorify Your name!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.” . . . “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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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 be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE *The First Commandment and What does this mean?*
from Luther's Small Catechism

You shall have no other Gods.

What does this mean? We should fear love and trust in God above all things.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #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.

THE SERMON "God's Word Works" Text: Isaiah 55:10-13

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #704 "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.

3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE 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 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.**

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #923 *“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”*

1 **Almighty Father, bless the Word**

Which through Your grace we now have heard.

Oh, may the precious seed take root,

Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

2 **We praise You for the means of grace**

As homeward now our steps we trace.

Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here

May all at last in heav'n appear.

△ **3** **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS