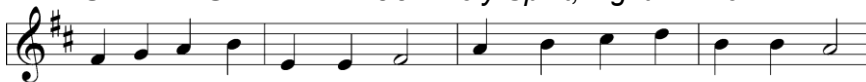


THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 2026

“From Groans to Glory”

THE OPENING HYMN #496 *“Holy Spirit, Light Divine”*



1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad - dened heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day.
Show those glo - rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond - age set me free.
Yield a sa - cred, set - tled peace, Let it grow and still in - crease.
Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION AND THE OPENING SENTENCES *(Isaiah 44:6–8; Psalm 119:64a)*

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

C: Amen.

P: Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “Who is like Me?”

C: You are the first and You are the last; besides You there is no God.

P: Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?

C: Behold, we are Your witnesses!

P: Is there a God besides Me?

C: O Lord, we know no Rock besides You, and the earth is full of Your steadfast love.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C: In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

P: Enter not into judgment with Your servant,

C: for no one living is righteous before You. (Psalm 143:1-2)

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

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: the earth is full of Your steadfast love, but we have turned away to the many passing loves that arrest our attention. Forgetting there is no god besides You, we often think we know what is best for ourselves and for others. But we don't. And so we groan in pain with the consequences of our sins. Hear our cry for Jesus' sake and have mercy on us.

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 INTROIT OF THE DAY *Psalm 86:11–15; antiphon: Psalm 86:6*

P: Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

C: listen to my plea for grace.

P: Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth;

C: unite my heart to fear Your name.

P: I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C: and I will glorify Your name forever.

P: For great is Your steadfast love toward me;

C: You have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

P: O God, proud men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life,

C: and they do not set You before them.

P: But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

C: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

C: listen to my plea for grace.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #794 *"The Lord, My God, Be Praised"*



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;
2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,
3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,
△ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;
The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,
The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.
To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day
Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood
His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.
And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.
Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.
God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, besides whom there is no other God, in this world Your people suffer great affliction, having no enduring place in which to dwell. Grant that we who are not home yet with You in Your kingdom of glory may endure with patience our groanings with all creation, being sustained by Your Word and Your gracious Spirit, who intercedes for us with far deeper groanings; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 44:6-8 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no god. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before Me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are My witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Romans 8:18-27 (ESV)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" (#493, verse 5)

Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, And be our future great reward.

Alleluia, alleluia! Then, throned with You forever, we

Shall praise Your name eternally. Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #756 “Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me”



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, Though their weight
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, And I will
 4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, For I am
 5 Now in Christ, death can - not slay me, Though it might,



With His cheer; Nev - er will He leave me.
 May be great, They will not de - feat me.
 Trust Him still When He sends me sad - ness.
 His dear lamb, He, my Shep - herd ev - er.
 Day and night, Trou - ble and dis - may me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en That God's Son
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sends them; He who knows
 God is good; His love at - tends me Day by day,
 I am His be - cause He gave me His own blood
 Christ has made my death a por - tal From the strife



For me won When His life was giv - en?
 All my woes Knows how best to end them.
 Come what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
 For my good, By His death to save me.
 Of this life To His joy im - mor - tal!

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THE SERMON “From Groans to Glory” Text: Romans 8:18-27

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS “Baptized into Your Name” (#590, verse 4)

**All that I am and love most dearly—Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
 Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!
 Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.**

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “Lord, have mercy.”)

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#618 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in
have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

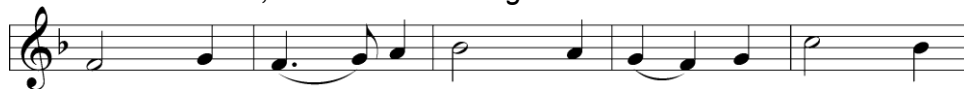


lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.
ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

#700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

#804 "O Worship the King"

1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?

O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,

Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

**5 Frail children of dust
and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust,
nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender,
redeemer, and friend!**

**6 O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
While angels delight
to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
shall sing to Thy praise.**

#761 "Rock of Ages"



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
When I soar to worlds un-known, See Thee on Thy judg-ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
Foul, I to the foun-tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

P: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever.

P: Let us pray. Spirit of salvation, we rejoice that by faith we have been made fit to receive the nourishment of Christ's true body and blood. Safeguard this holy people from temptation and danger, and prepare us to represent the name of our loving and living Savior, Jesus, that we might shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father, and that by our actions and interactions more may be brought into the fellowship of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, one God, now and forever.

C: 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 ANNOUNCEMENTS