

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026
8:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering Music

Listen Up!
Spirit of Praise

Althoff & Kauflin

Welcome and Announcements

We rise in body or spirit.

Invitation to Worship

We gather to worship a God who has abundantly cast seeds of love and hope upon us. May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace.

Confession

In Christ there is no condemnation,
for perfect love casts out sin.
Let us confess our sins to God.

**Faithful God, your word falls on hardened ground
when our worldly anxiety and attachment to wealth
crowd out your place in our lives.
Forgive our frail and human ways
and cultivate in us a spirit of trust and faithfulness,
for you are our hope and deliverance.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved people of God,
there is no condemnation any longer
because the Spirit of God dwells in you.
If you hear nothing else today, hear these words:
there is no condemnation.
In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.
Amen.



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be -



side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.



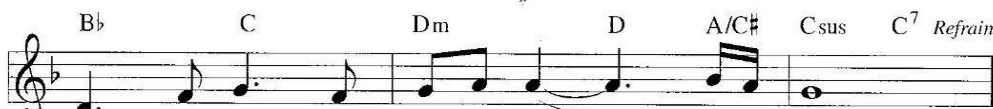
Please be near me to the end.



2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and



I will love you to the end.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

We pray. Life-giving God,

we gather in your presence to offer thanksgiving for all that you have done for us. May your Holy Spirit inspire our praise and our prayers.

Open our hearts and minds to your presence among us and within us. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

Reading Romans 8:1-11

Translation: MSG

Hear what St. Paul is saying to the church in Rome:

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying dark cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death. God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that. The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us. Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God!

Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing.

And God isn't pleased at being ignored. But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won't know what we're talking about. But for you who welcome him, in whom he dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

We rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Translation: MSG

The Good News from Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Make us good earth, God!

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly.

Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds.
Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

“Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

This is the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Deacon Reylene Starego

We rise in body or spirit.



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

God is the One who answers prayer and walks with us in times of celebration and grief. So we offer our prayers and give thanks to the One who comforts, restores, and heals.

After each petition:

Loving One,
you are listening.

Pastor's closing prayer:

Loving One, you are indeed listening.
Receive these prayers and all the prayers
on our hearts, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*During the Offering Song, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.
If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the
tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.*



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 neigh-bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Offering Prayer

We pray.

You call us to sow your word in all times and places,
 even when the ground is hard and shallow.

For faith is a gift that comes from you,
 and fruitful discipleship is your Spirit working within us.

May the gifts we offer this day
 spread the good news of life abundant in Christ.

Amen.

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

The God of love is with us
Transforming us as community.

Let us praise God for opening our hearts.
Let us praise God for making us good soil.

Let us give thanks to God who claims us and grows within us.
Giving thanks that God's Spirit is always moving and flowing.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Gathered as one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.
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 the Table

This table is the garden — a place for nurture and care,
a place where soil is healthy and good, where our roots stretch deep
and our lives reach gratefully toward the sun.
Come and be nourished here, so that we might bear fruit beyond
our wildest imaginings.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Song

Christ Be Our Light

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



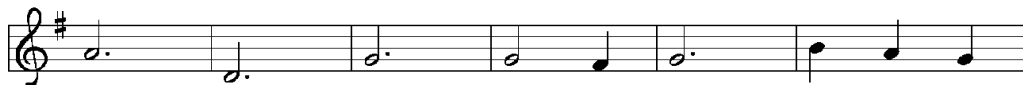
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

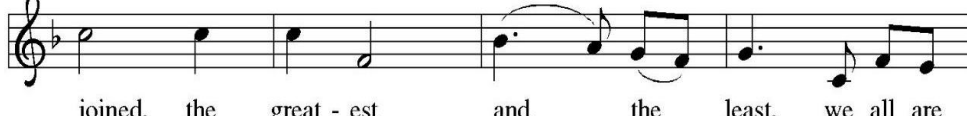
Refrain



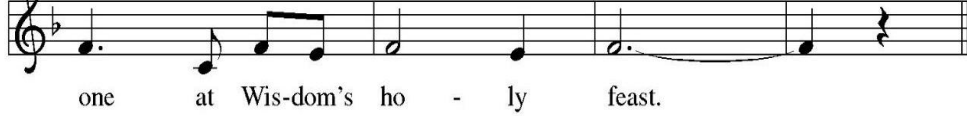
We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are



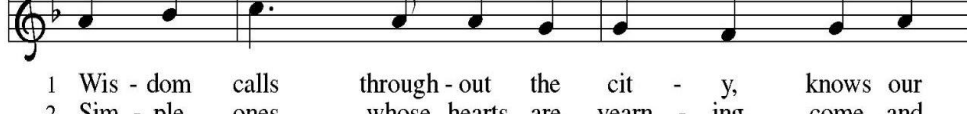
giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-gether



joined, the great-est and the least, we all are



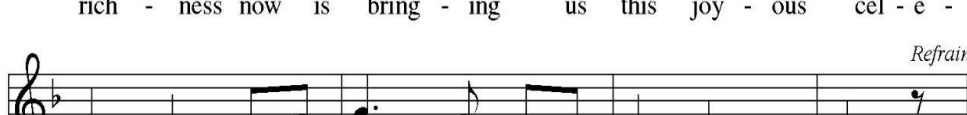
one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.



1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
 2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
 3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her

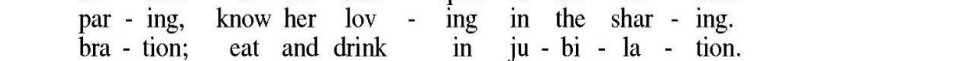


hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-
 gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-
 rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-



ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.
 par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.
 bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

Refrain



Communion Song

Seed Scattered and Sown

C G/B Am Am/G F G C2 F G

$\text{♩} = 107$

Seed, scat-tered and sown,

C G/B Am Dm7 Gsus G C G/B Am Am/G F G

shared as one, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

C2 F G C G/B Am Dm7 C/E F G C

hands, one cup that is shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

VERSES

18 *Fine* Am G/A C F G C Dm G7sus G9 C

1. Is not the bread we break a shar-ing in our Lord?
2. The seed which falls on rock will with-er and will die.
3. As wheat up-on the hills was gath-ered and was grown,

23 E Am/E E7 Am G F C/E Dm7 Gsus G *D.C.*

Is not the cup we bless the Blood of Christ out-poured?
The seed with-in good ground will flow-er and have life.
So may the church of God be gath-ered in-to one.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after Communion

We pray.

We thank you for nourishing us with the gift of heaven.

Filled with God's strength, let us go out into the world as good soil,
nurturing the world God loves.

Amen

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Go from this place freed from condemnation, empowered for transformation,
and inspired for restoration. In the name of our God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Sending Song *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

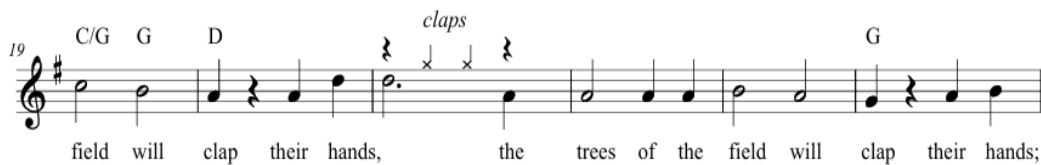
Go out into the world, walking in the way of God's word.

Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

The Trees of the Field Sing 2 times

W&P 138



Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: Ichsemmaus.org.

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Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music
Pastor Paisley Le Roy, Acting Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

JoEllen Rooney

Reader

Dianna Olszewski

Communion Assistants

Carol Walrod, Don Walrod

Greeter

Barb Roba

Usher

Becky Keane

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Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

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Nancy Shoemaker, Lynn Snyder, Terri Hinderliter, Carolyn Rice, Robert Rice

