

Longing To Be Planted in the Word

July 19,
2026



Eighth Sunday
after Pentecost

Welcome, guests! We're delighted you could join us. If you have any questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to assist you. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold letters. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; it will be used only by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: The Christian is planted by the Word and bears fruit. This Sunday's readings are summarized in the Prayer of the Day, which thanks God for the implanting of the Word and asks for the Spirit's help in bearing fruit of faith.

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#255

OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty;
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee;



Zi - on, let me en - ter there, Where my
Come thou al - so un - to me. Where we
Here thy seed is du - ly sown. Let my
Let me keep thy gift di - vine, How - so -
Let thy will be done in - deed. May I



soul in joy - ful du - ty Waits for him who
find thee and a - dore thee, There a heav'n on
soul, where it is plant - ed, Bring forth pre - cious
e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en; May thy Word still
un - dis - turbed draw near thee While thou dost thy



an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed is this
earth must be. To my heart, oh, en - ter
sheaves a - lone, So that all I hear may
o'er me shine As my guid - ing star through
peo - ple feed. Here of life the foun - tain



place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
thou; Let it be thy tem - ple now!
be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
life, As my com - fort in all strife.
flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER (87 87 77) Joachim Neander, 1650–80, alt.



C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

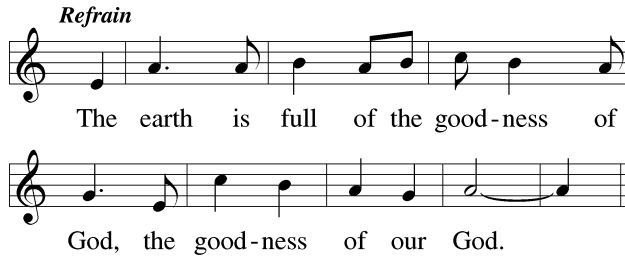
****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 55:10, 11

Though many seeds fall among soil that does not produce fruit, Isaiah gives us God's promise that his Word will never return to him fruitless. The Word is like the rain and snow sent from God in heaven that fall to bring blessing upon the earth and make it fruitful.

Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return there unless they first water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout, so that it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, in the same way my word that goes out from my mouth will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.



Refrain
Praise awaits you, O God,*
you call forth songs of joy.
You care for the land and water it;*
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
The streams of God are filled with water*
to provide the people with grain.

Refrain
You crown the year with your bounty,*
and your carts overflow with abundance.
The grasslands of the desert overflow;*
the hills are clothed with gladness.
The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;*
they shout for joy and sing.

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:18 – 25

Paul teaches a lesson on longing for God's plans to come to fruition. Even creation groans for release from the bondage of sin and longs for the freedom of the children of God. One day, God will make all things new and return creation to the perfection with which he made it.

For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will

of the one who subjected it, in the hope that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. The Word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so you may obey it. Alleluia. (Deuteronomy 30:14)



****Please Stand****

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

****Please Be Seated****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#324

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOUR WORD IS CAST



1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast Like
 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man This
 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares The
 4 When - e'er 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 right - eous 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.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt.

Tune: DUNDEE (CM) *The CL Psalms of David*, Edinburgh, 1615.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1 – 9, 18 – 23

What a description of Jesus' ministry! What a description of ours! The Sower scatters the seed of the Gospel to all with no regard for where it might land. Yet most of his seed bears no fruit. This parable brings warning and such comfort.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

That same day, Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. A large crowd gathered around him. So, he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately, the seed sprang up because the soil was not deep. But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."

“So, listen carefully to 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 the seed that was sown along the path. The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed, he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



SERMON TEXT:

MATTHEW 13:1 – 9, 18 – 23

SERMON THEME:

SOWING SEEDS IN STUBBORN SOIL: WHY THE WORD STILL WORKS

CREATE IN ME



****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love to our family members and neighbors.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly toward those who live in Redmond and its surrounding cities. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Silent prayer.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

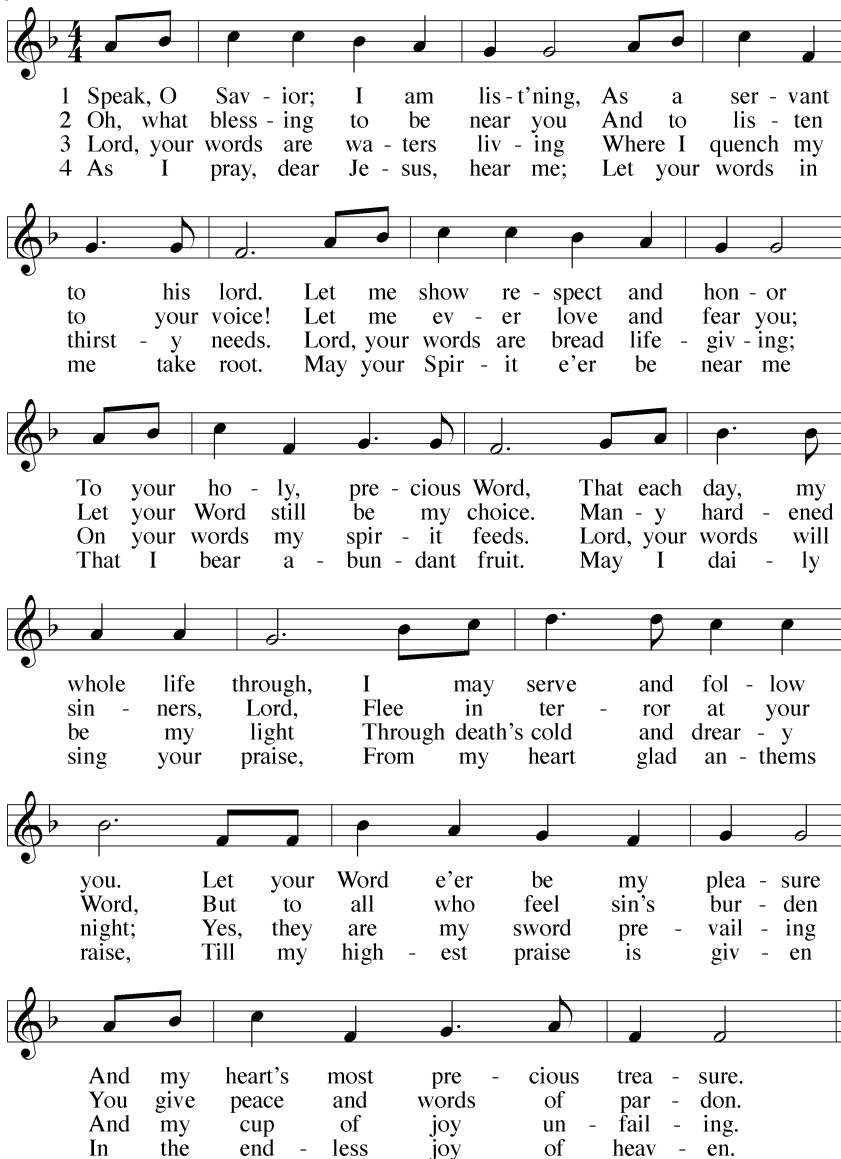
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#283

SPEAK, O SAVIOR, I AM LISTENING



1 Speak, O Sav - ior; I am lis - t'ning, As a ser - vant
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you And to lis - ten
 3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing Where I quench my
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let your words in

to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
 to your voice! Let me ev - er love and fear you;
 thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
 me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me

To your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, That each day, my
 Let your Word still be my choice. Man - y hard - ened
 On your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will
 That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly

whole life through, I may serve and fol - low
 sin - ners, Lord, Flee in ter - ror at your
 be my light Through death's cold and drear - y
 sing your praise, From my heart glad an - thems

you. Let your Word e'er be my plea - sure
 Word, But to all who feel sin's bur - den
 night; Yes, they are my sword pre - vail - ing
 raise, Till my high - est praise is giv - en

And my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
 You give peace and words of par - don.
 And my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
 In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638-83, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: WERDE MÜNTER (87 87 77 88) Johann Schop, c. 1590-1667.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

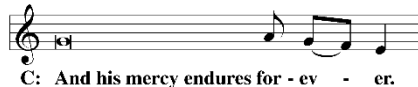
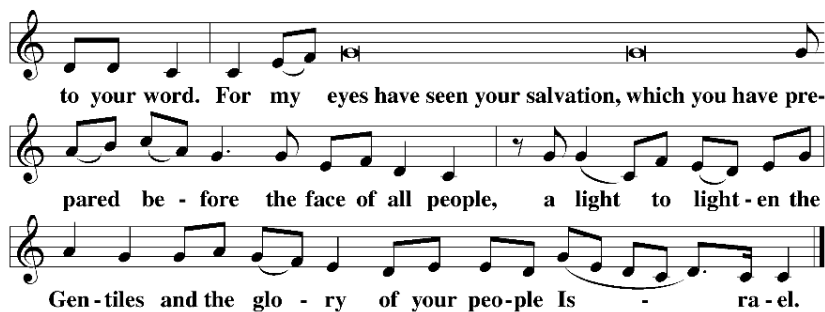
DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS





O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness, you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#323

ALMIGHTY FATHER, BLESS THE WORD

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with two verses indicated by the numbers 1 and 2.

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through your
2 We praise you for the means of grace As home-ward

grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious seed
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who wor -

take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit.
shipped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.

Text: Scandinavian hymn; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnary*, Decorah, 1913, alt.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDETH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work, receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Information Class: We are looking for participants for our Bible Information Class on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. If you have neighbors or friends who have questions about the Bible or wonder, “What do Lutherans believe?” Please get them in contact with me.

Time for Outreach: Do you want to hear local music and share the hope you have in Jesus? Here is your opportunity for both. Our congregation has a booth at the “Music on the Green” concert series at the American Legion Park. The series runs every other Wednesday at 3 pm for setup, so mark your calendar for July 22. Please consider coming out to join us and meet our neighbors.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please consider attending our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we study Paul’s letter to the church at Ephesus.

Midweek Bible Study: Our Tuesday evening Bible Study will resume on August 4 at 6 pm. with Isaiah. We will meet at Gary and Lani Carroll’s home or join us on Zoom. We will begin our study of the book of Isaiah.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Outreach Ideas: We need ideas for a family outreach event in October.

Seminarians: Thanksgiving will be here before you know it. If you would like to contribute to our Seminarians’ Christmas gift, please designate the offering and place it in the collection plate. We have been blessed each year by sending the Seminarians generous gifts.

Seminarian Gernander: We have pre-addressed envelopes in the entryway. Please consider writing a letter of encouragement to our Seminarian, Noah, or to his wife, Rebekah.

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