



SERVICE ORDER

Sunday, 16 July
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Lord God, everything is in your care.
Put away from us all things that are harmful,
and give us whatever is profitable for us.

We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: MATTHEW 13:23

*The seeds that fell on good ground are the people
who hear and understand the message.*

They produce as much as a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was planted.

**The seeds that fell on good ground are the people
who hear and understand the message.**

**They produce as much as a hundred or sixty or thirty times what was
planted.**

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPEN NOW THE GATES OF BEAUTY

Open now the gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for Him who answers prayer:
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

**Gracious God, I come before You; come with blessing now to me.
Where we find You and adore You, there a heaven on earth must be.
Come to me and let my heart be Your temple, set apart.**

**Speak, my God, and I will hear You; let Your loving will be done;
may I in true faith draw near You, finding rest in You alone.
Here is food and drink indeed,**

**Benjamin Schmolck 1672-1737
Tr Catherine Winkworth (1863) and David Schubert (1999)**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all
my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You
and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my
sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of
Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His
only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who
believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has
given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved.
Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

PSALM 119:105-112

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

*¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it,
that I will follow your righteous laws.*

¹⁰⁷ I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸ Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.

¹⁰⁹ Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law.

*110 The wicked have set a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.*

111 Your statutes are my heritage for ever; they are the joy of my heart.

112 My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.^[a]

**Your word is a lamp to my feet and
a light to my path.**

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

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that God's word will bear fruit.

[silence]

**Kind and generous God,
you have planted and watered
the seed of your word in us.**

**Use it to produce a rich harvest
in us and through us.**

**We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Genesis 25:19-34 Jacob gains the birthright of Esau

¹⁹This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram^[a] and sister of

Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, 'Why is this happening to me?' So she went to enquire of the LORD. ²³ The LORD said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the elder will serve the younger.' ²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.^[b] ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.^[c] Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. ²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skilful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, 'Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!' (That is why he was also called Edom.^[d]) ³¹ Jacob replied, 'First sell me your birthright.' ³² 'Look, I am about to die,' Esau said. 'What good is the birthright to me?' ³³ But Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11 You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you^[a] free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,^[b] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.^[c] And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the

law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^[d] because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^[e] his Spirit who lives in you..

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*So is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 The parable of the sower

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.' ¹⁸'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for the seed of God's word planted in our hearts.**

May it bear fruit in our lives.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S 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, dead, and 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**

SPEAK O LORD

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen
today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.**

Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us all Your purposes for Your glory.

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.**

**Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.**

Words of power that can never fail— let their truth prevail over unbelief.

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.**

**And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.**

Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

Holy Spirit living Breath of God

**Holy Spirit living Breath of God Breathe new life into my willing soul
Let the presence of the risen Lord Come renew my heart and make me whole
Cause Your word to come alive in me Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for Your purity Holy Spirit breathe new life in me**

**Holy Spirit come abide within May Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least Gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace Breath of God show Christ in all I do**

**Holy Spirit from creation's birth Giving life to all that God has made
How Your power once again on earth Cause Your church to hunger for Your way
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ May be clear for all the world to see**

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
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OFFERING PRAYER

*Thank you, Lord, for all your gifts,
especially for your word,
which comforts us and sets us free.
May we take your message of love and forgiveness to heart,
and live fruitful and productive lives,
serving others for you.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God sows the seed of his word in our hearts so that we may bear fruit, the fruit of faith in him and love for other people. Let us pray for his church and for all people in need.

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for all your goodness and grace, through Christ our Lord. Today we thank you for sowing your word in our hearts, and that by your Holy Spirit you cultivate the soil of our hearts to receive this word. In your mercy, help this word to grow and produce fruit that will nourish our neighbour and glorify you.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Assist your holy church throughout the world to sow the good news lavishly to all people. Bless pastors, teachers, and all Christians to speak the word in their respective vocations. We pray for Lutheran Media Ministry, that their work of proclaiming your Son via modern technology will be met with open ears and hearts.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Bless and prosper our land with all that is good and true. We give you thanks for giving us our daily bread by means of all who work the land. Bless farmers, orchardists, viticulturists, market gardeners and all who till the soil, that they may see their work as service to their neighbour. In your mercy provide them with favourable weather conditions so that they may have a plentiful harvest.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Give to all our leaders wisdom and honesty. Move the wealthy and powerful to contribute generously to the betterment of our society. Help all citizens to work for the common good and provide help for all who are needy. Bring refugees to a place they can call home.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Graciously help and heal all whom we know are sick in mind, body and spirit – and in particular we commend to you (*insert names*). Assure them of your

love for them in Christ, and help them to glorify your name in sickness and in health.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the gift of your word. Let your word take root in our hearts. We ask you to listen in mercy to the prayers of your people; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless us and keep us.

The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May God's Word take root in your heart
and may you grow as his child.*

**May God's Word take root in your heart
and may you grow as his child.**

WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace.
and bear much fruit in your lives.
In the name of Christ. Amen.*

SENT OUT BY GOD'S BLESSING

**Sent out by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from His dwelling take leave.**

**The supper is ended; O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer His call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing His children of each tribe and race.**

**With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and His name that we bear.**

Omer Westendorf 1916 - , alt.

HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading (a): Genesis 25:19-34

LHS

383 O Lord, who hast my place assigned

388 All depends on our possessing* G3

415 Whatever God ordains is good* G3

865 God will take care of us all through the day G6

874 The will of God is always best G9

AT

1 Lord of our days
29 Wait on me
354 Change my heart, O God
401 Follow me

Second reading: Romans 8:1-11**LHS**

67 And can it be, that I should gain (*alt tune* TIS 209)
101 Jesus lives! thy terrors now* G5
121 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord* G4
122 O Holy Ghost, thou gift divine* G5
124 O Holy Spirit, enter Thou* G3
125 Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly dove G5
128 O Spirit of life, O Spirit of God* G5
324 Salvation unto us has come* G5
772 Come, Holy Spirit, come G4
773 Filled with the Spirit's power G7
774 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling G6

AT

133 Jesus set us free
182 Christ is changing everything
251 God sends us his Spirit
265 Take us now, we are yours
495 Come and follow me

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**LHS**

221 Spread, O spread, thou mighty Word* G5
243 How beauteous are their feet* G5
259 Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth* G7
267 Almighty God, Thy word is cast* G6
507 Open now thy gates of beauty* G3
515 On what has now been sown* G9
844 Sent out by God's blessing G6

AT

39 My word is like the snow and rain
67 Let your word
226 All is nearness