

Contemporary Worship

July 12, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 15

God's word is like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately.

Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

GATHERING MUSIC

Word of God – Brown/Rozier

The Word of God is light in my darkness, hope for the hopeless, strong and true.

The Word of God is strength for the weary, a shield for those who trust in You.

Everything will fade, the heavens and the earth will pass away;

But You will remain, yes, You will remain always.

Jesus, faithful Word of God, the anchor of my heart;

You're everything You say You are.

Lord, greater than my deepest needs, the ground beneath my feet;

Your promises won't fail me now.

You will not fail us, Word of God.

WELCOME

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG *

Speak, O Lord

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

- Verse 1: 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 fulfill in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.
- Verse 2: 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.
- Verse 3: 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.

*"Speak, O Lord" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

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

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.' The second staff continues with 'Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.' The third and fourth staves together form the line 'When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.' The fifth staff concludes with 'Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.'

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God of grace,"

Assembly: hear our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "the abundant grace of Christ Jesus."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

OFFERING

Seed Scattered and Sown – Feiten/Gunnison/Miller

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*Seed, scattered and sown, wheat, gathered and grown,
bread, broken and shared as one, the Living Bread of God.*

*Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands,
one cup that is shared by all; the Living Cup, the Living Bread of God.*

*Is not the bread we break a sharing in our Lord?
Is not the cup we bless the blood of Christ outpoured?*

*The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life.*

*As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: Loving God,

Assembly: **we confess that we do not always make room for your Word in our lives.**

Too often our hearts are distracted, anxious, or closed to your presence.

**We allow worry to crowd out trust, comfort to replace compassion,
and fear to silence faith.**

**We have missed opportunities to love our neighbors, seek justice,
and share your hope.**

**Yet you never stop speaking, never stop loving,
and never stop sowing the seeds of your kingdom.**

Forgive us.

Open our hearts to receive your grace.

Root us deeply in your love,

**and shape us into people who bear the fruit of kindness, mercy,
generosity, and peace.**

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
Come, share in the feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Piano Meditation at Distribution – *Adoration* – Mark Hayes

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
Plant your living Word deep within us,
that, rooted in your love and nourished by your grace,
we may bear the fruits of faith, hope, and love in our daily lives.
Send us into the world to scatter seeds of your mercy and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

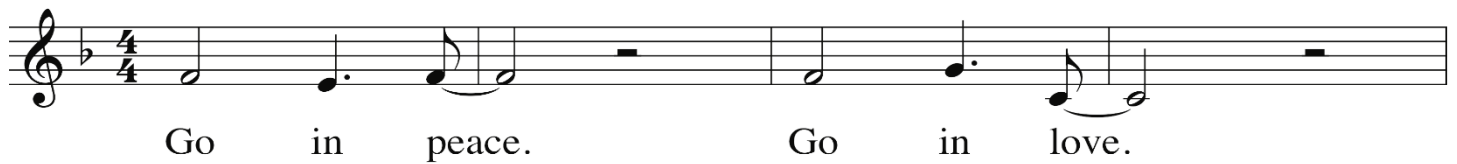
BLESSING *

Leader: Almighty God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
May the Word of Christ take root in your hearts,
strengthen you in faith,
and bear fruit in your lives
for the sake of the world.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

Go in Peace, Go in Love



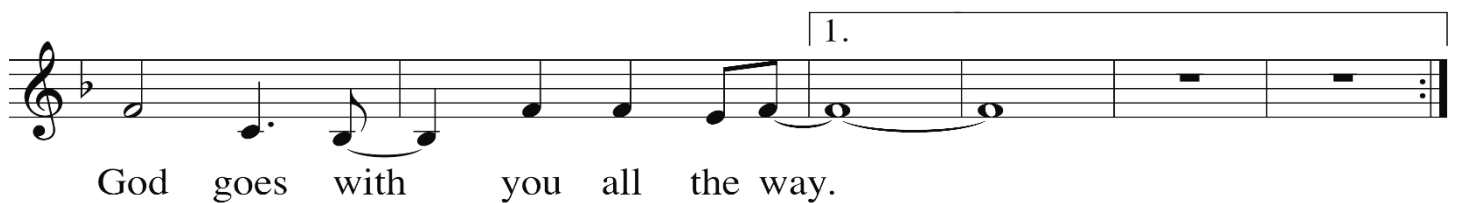
Go in peace. Go in love.



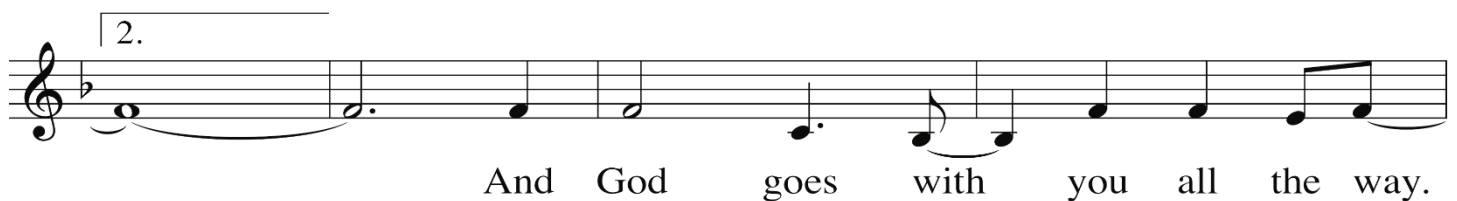
Go to seek. Go to serve.



Go in hope to work and pray. And



God goes with you all the way. 1.



And God goes with you all the way. 2.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953
Tune: GIPGIL; Sally Ann Morris, b.1952
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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Sow seeds of hope, mercy, and love

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in honor of his birthday
and in celebration of their wedding anniversary, both on July 13,
by David and Mary Woodyard.*

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