

# Traditional Worship

July 12, 2026

*Time after Pentecost*

*Lectionary 15*

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also 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

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

### PRELUDE

*Prelude & Fugue in B-flat Major – G. F. Handel*

### RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL \*

*As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.*

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

### 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 HYMN #533 \*

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS \*

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose word is living and active,  
whose mercy is sown generously among us,  
and whose Spirit brings forth the harvest of faith.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Leader: Merciful God,  
we confess that our hearts are not always ready to receive your word.

**Assembly: At times we are distracted by the cares of this world,  
tempted by the desire for comfort and wealth,  
or hardened by fear and doubt.**

**We have failed to trust your promises and have not borne the fruit of love,  
justice, mercy, and peace that you desire.**

**Forgive us.**

**Break up the hardened places within us,  
deepen our roots in your love,  
and make us fruitful disciples for the sake of your world;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news.  
God scatters the seed of grace with reckless abundance,  
not because we have earned it,  
but because God's mercy knows no limits.

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.  
The Holy Spirit is at work within us,  
preparing our hearts to receive God's word  
and bear fruit in lives of faith, hope, and love.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE \*

*Glory to God*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 8/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!". The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY \***

Leader: 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, live according to it,  
and grow in faith and hope and love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 55:10-13

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy

and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

*The Cantor and the Assembly will chant the Psalm.  
The Cantor will chant the odd numbered verses  
and the Assembly will chant the even numbered verses in **bold print**.*



- <sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O <sup>l</sup> God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows <sup>l</sup> be fulfilled.
- <sup>2</sup> **To you, the one <sup>l</sup> who answers prayer,  
to you all <sup>l</sup> flesh shall come.**
- <sup>3</sup> Our sins are strong- <sup>l</sup> er than we are,  
but you blot out <sup>l</sup> our transgressions.
- <sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your <sup>l</sup> courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness <sup>l</sup> of your temple.**
- <sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of <sup>l</sup> our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans <sup>l</sup> far away.
- <sup>6</sup> **You make firm the mountains <sup>l</sup> by your power;  
you are girded a- <sup>l</sup> bout with might.**
- <sup>7</sup> You still the roaring <sup>l</sup> of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor <sup>l</sup> of the peoples.
- <sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your <sup>l</sup> marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to <sup>l</sup> sing for joy.**
- <sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; the river of God is <sup>l</sup> full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide <sup>l</sup> for the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth <sup>l</sup> out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and <sup>l</sup> bless its increase.**
- <sup>11</sup> You crown the year <sup>l</sup> with your goodness,  
and your paths over- <sup>l</sup> flow with plenty.
- <sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be <sup>l</sup> rich for grazing,  
and the hills be <sup>l</sup> clothed with joy.**
- <sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak them- <sup>l</sup> selves with grain;  
let them shout for <sup>l</sup> joy and sing.



## **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.**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #512 \***

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

## **APOSTLE'S CREED \***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **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.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.*

## OFFERING

*Hymn of Promise – Natalie Sleeth*

*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 will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.*

*Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.*



*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

## OFFERTORY \*

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

The image shows a musical score for the Offertory. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING \*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

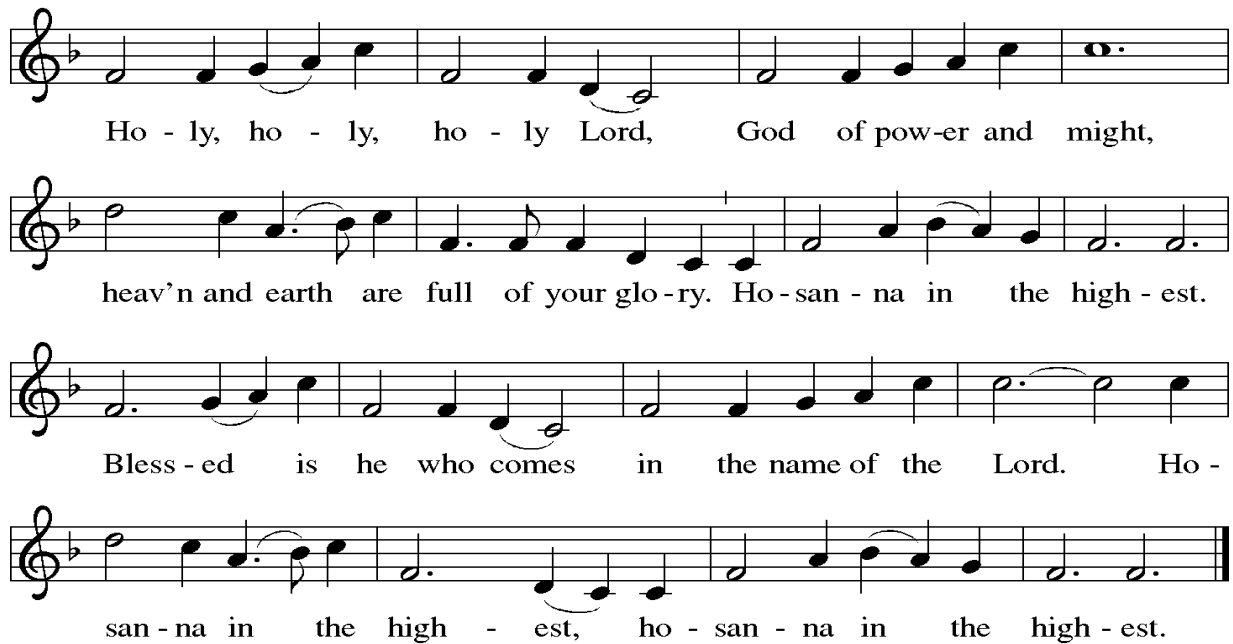
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
In him your Word took flesh and dwelt among us.  
He sows the good news of your reign, gathers us at his table,  
and feeds us with his own life,  
that rooted in his grace we may bear fruit for the life of the world.  
And so, with all the saints and angels,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION \*

Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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.**

## LAMB OF GOD \*



O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us,  
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.

## 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: 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.

# SENDING

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

## 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.

### SENDING HYMN #550 \*

*On What Has Now Been Sown*

### DISMISSAL \*

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

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE \*

*Toccata on DARWALL'S 148<sup>th</sup> – arr. Gordon Young*

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**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor  
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family  
Dave Woodyard, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00  
Mary Woodyard, Lector & Communion Assistant, 8:00  
Bev Sapienza, Lector & Communion Assistant 10:45  
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music  
Alyse Hancock-Phillips, Cantor

.....  
**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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