

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 12th, 2026

Thought and Prayer as We Are Gathered

Prayer in Jesus' name is a challenge for us. It is a great challenge for people like us to approach God with our intercessions and petitions. Yet the good news is that we don't have to fully explain or to comprehend prayer in order to pray. The Holy Spirit helps us, baptized child of God, your Life is prayer.

Let us pray as One body, the body of Christ.

Lord Jesus, help us to approach you as we ought. Help us, in prayer, to speak to you, but even more help us, in prayer, to listen to you. Give us an open, teachable spirit in our prayers. Give us the courage to hear whatever you have to say to us and, in hearing your will, help us to act upon your will for our lives.

Keep reaching out to us, Lord Jesus; keep revealing yourself to us, we pray.
Amen.

Words of Welcome and a Call to Worship *Psalm 86:6-7; 10-13*

Pastor: *Hear my prayer, O LORD;
listen to my cry for mercy.*

People: **In the day of my trouble I will call to you,
for you will answer me.**

Pastor: *For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.*

People: **Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.**

Pastor: *I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.*

People: **For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.**

Opening Hymn LSB 769 "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

1 Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only You can teach me how to pray.

2 Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see Your purpose and Your will—
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

3 Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear
Of human need; O give me eyes to see
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,
My life in You, O Christ; Your love in me.

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Invocation *please stand*

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Pastor: *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: *I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. Ezekiel 34:16*

People: **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**

Luke 19:10

Pastor: *As we struggle against sin, God calls us to turn to Him and confess that we, of ourselves, are lost in our sin.*

Almighty and all-merciful God,

People: **we confess before You that we are sinners, sinful from birth. We have sinned in the way we have thought, spoken and acted. We have not loved You with all our passion and prayer, intelligence and energy, nor have we loved others as brothers and sisters, but we tend to love only ourselves. We like sheep without a shepherd follow where our noses lead and thus, go astray. Seek us and save us; forgive us for the sake of Jesus, Your only begotten Son. Amen.**

Pastor: *Jesus has sought us out, has called us through the Holy Spirit by the Gospel, cleansed us in His blood by holy Baptism. He has promised He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is our help; He is our Savior. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: **Amen**

Introit *Psalm 139:1-11, 23-24*

Pastor: *You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
You perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
You are familiar with all my ways.*

People: **Before a word is on my tongue,
You, LORD, know it completely.
You hem me in behind and before,
You lay your hand upon me.**

Pastor: *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?*

People: **If I go up to the heavens— you are there;
If I make my bed in the depths— you are there.**

Pastor: *If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

People: **If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,”
Even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

Pastor: *Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

People: **Amen.**

Kyrie *sung LSB 186*

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**



Gloria in Excelsis *sung LSB 187*

People: **Glory be to God on High,
and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: *O God, besides whom there is no other God, in this world Your people suffer great affliction, having no enduring place in which to dwell. Grant that we who are not home, yet with You in Your kingdom, may endure with patience in our groaning with all creation, being sustained by Your Word and Your gracious Spirit, who intercedes for us with far deeper groanings; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns in communion and love with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

People: **Amen.** *please be seated*

The Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 55:10-13

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper, and
Instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the Lord’s renown,
for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Epistle Lesson Romans 8:12-17

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are

heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 *please stand*

People: *sung* **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?** *LSB p.156*

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Pastor: *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter.*

People: *sung* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop— a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

"Listen then to what the parable of the

Pastor: *This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

People: *sung* **Praise to You, O Christ.** *please be seated*

Sermon Hymn "Be Thou My Vision"

1 Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2 Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I, Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

3 Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart;
O King of glory, my treasure Thou art.

4 O King of glory, my victory won;
Rule and reign in me 'til Thy will be done;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall;
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Sermon

Listening to Jesus

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Apostles' Creed *please stand*

**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, died and was 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 *please be seated***

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all
people according to their needs.*

Pastor: *Lord in your mercy...*

People: **... hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

People: **Amen.**

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

**We may now take a few moments to share
“The peace of the Lord” with one another.**

Offertory *LSB p. 192 please stand*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and up-hold me with Thy free spirit. Amen!!**

Preface

Pastor: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

Pastor: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: *It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:*



Sanctus *LSB p. 161*

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

People: **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 *please be seated*

Words of Institution

Pax Domini

Pastor: *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

People: **Amen!**

Agnus Dei *LSB p. 163*

People: **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**



Communion Hymns

LSB 547

“The Lamb”

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of
price! Refrain

**Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose
death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

2 The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to
sing. Refrain

3 The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

4 He sighs, He dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own
righteousness. Refrain

5 He rose, He rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. Refrain

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LSB 570

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come
to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse
each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon,
cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Post-Communion Canticle *LSB 164 please stand*
Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
tell everyone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Post- Communion Prayer

Pastor: *Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,*
People: **we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**
Pastor: *Our Father in heaven, we give You thanks that You have refreshed us
through this beneficial gift. By this body and blood of our Lord Jesus,
strengthen us for service in Your kingdom. Help us to love one another
as You have loved us. And preserve us steadfast in the confession of the
true faith until life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our
Lord.*
People: **Amen.**

Blessing *Psalm 65:8-13, 4*

Pastor: *Those living far away fear your wonders;*
People: **where morning dawns and evening fades
you call forth songs of joy.**
Pastor: *You care for the land and water it;*
People: **you enrich it abundantly.**
Pastor: *The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.*
People: **You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
You soften it with showers and bless its crops.
You crown the year with your bounty,
Your carts overflow with abundance.**
Pastor: *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;*
People: **They shout for joy and sing.**
Pastor: *Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!*
People: **We are filled with the good things of your house,
of your holy temple.**

Benediction

Pastor: *The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.*

People: **Amen!!** *please be seated*

Closing Hymn LSB 965

“God Bless Our Native Land”

1 God bless our native land;
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night.
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

2 So shall our prayers arise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!