



July 26, 2020
8th Sunday after Pentecost

The Christian is planted by the Word and produces fruit. The Sunday is summarized in the Prayer of the Day which thanks God for the implanting of the Word and asks for the Spirit's help in producing fruits of faith.



Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

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1 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
 2 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let his mer - cies lie
 3 'Tis he for - gives my sins; 'Tis he re - lieves my pain;
 4 He fills the poor with good; He gives the suf - f'ers rest;
 5 His won - drous works and ways He made by Mo - ses known,

And aid my tongue to bless his name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
 For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die.
 'Tis he that heals my sick - ness - es And makes me young a - gain.
 The Lord has judg - ments for the proud And jus - tice for th' op - pressed.
 But sent the world his truth and grace By his be - lov - ed Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt.
 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76

ST. THOMAS
 SM

Alternate settings: 1, 533

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

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STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.

C: **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.**

M: 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.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: 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: Amen

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV84)

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, ¹¹ 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.

PSALM 65

read responsively by the pastor and congregation

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.

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.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:18-25 (NIV84)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all.

Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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)

STAND

M: The Gospel is from Matthew, chapter 13, beginning at verse 1.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV84)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

BE SEATED

SERMON

The Seed Is The Solution

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

OFFERING

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

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.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: 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 of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

C: **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.**

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

We will commune by families or individuals. Come forward in the center aisle. Return by the side. Please stand directly in front of the front pews. Pastor will bring Communion to you. Only touch one individual cup. A basket is available for empty cups as you return.

THANKSGIVING

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

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

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**M: 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.**

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Preach You the Word

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Preach You the Word

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1 Preach you the Word and plant it home To those who
 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your ser - vant
 3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love Scat - ters a -
 4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be

like or like it not, The Word that shall en - dure and
 bids us un - der - take: To preach your Word and nev - er
 broad the good - ly seed, In - tent a - lone that there may
 choked and mat - ted flat, The sow - er sows; his heart cries

stand When flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
 ask What pride - ful prof - it it may make.
 be The whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
 out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"

- 5 Preach you the Word and plant it home
 And never faint; the Harvest-Lord
 Who gave the sower seed to sow
 Will watch and tend his planted Word.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76, alt.
 Tune: *Rheinfelssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch*, Augsburg, 1666

O HEILAND, REISS DIE HIMMEL AUF
 LM

Text © 1971 Peter Franzmann; Setting © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Alternate setting: 91

Announcements

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list.

Jenna Schaeffer - expecting in September

Lindsay Behl - expecting in November

Vickie Landon - surgery recovery

Froehlich / Vant Hul Wedding

Zach Froehlich and DaNae Vant Hul were united in marriage on July 18, 2020. They are moving to Des Moines this summer.

Zach will teach math at Lincoln High School and DaNae will be a nurse at Mercy. God's blessings to them as they grow in love for each other and their Savior.

Thanks to Kris Olson for playing the organ at the early service.

Franz Olsen with the Lord

Franz died unexpectedly this week. He was a frequent visitor to our services and game nights. He leaves behind a daughter who is about 10 years old (living with her mother) and his parents. May the Lord comfort all who grieve with the certainty of eternal life through Christ's resurrection from the dead. A private memorial service was held on July 25.

Worship in July

We will return to the regular schedule for Communion on the 2nd and last Sunday of the month in July. We will continue to offer three services on Sundays (8, 9:15 & 10:30 am). Attendance is by reservation. However, seating will be every other pew instead of every third pew. This will allow 2-3 more households per service. We continue to encourage social distancing. Hand sanitizer and masks are available at the entrance. If you have not yet attended and are interested in attending in person, contact the church office to be added to the reservation list.

THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

July 26 - Aug. 2

Today	8:00 am	Worship—Livestream
	9:15 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Kunama Worship
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Bible Study - Zoom
Saturday	3:30 pm	Homeless Meal Preparation
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship—Livestream
	9:15 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Kunama Worship

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