

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 16th, 2023
9:30 am

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

7th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.

**In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**† Gathering Hymn: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty – ELW 533
(v. 1, 3, & 5)**

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!

- 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.

- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

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



† Kyrie (v. 1, 2, 4)

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

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.
Amen.

The Word

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

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

To put this reading into context:

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.

Hear now the reading.

¹⁰For 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,
¹¹so 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.

¹²For 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.
13 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

*We welcome
the gospel by
singing the
Gospel
Acclamation.
We rise, if able,
in anticipation
of Christ being
revealed to us
through the
Living Word of
the Gospel.*

† Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

To put this gospel reading into context:

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.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

*Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.
You’re invited to reflect on the following question:*

How’s your faith life right now? How does God meet you there? God is always forgiving, loving, cheering, blessing, watering, gracing, lifting, pruning, forming and shaping us for faith that sustains us in life. Wherever we are, God actively pursues us and helps us grow. How does the Lord help you to make your heart good soil?

† Hymn of the Day: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil – ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
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.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

† Prayers of Intercession

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Guide your church to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Heal those who are sick and in need, especially Peter, Helen, Andrew, Mary, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, family and friends of Patricia, and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany guests to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire us by the faithful departed, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



*The offering is
brought
forward to the
altar to signify
our gratitude
for God's
blessings.*

† Offering Hymn: We Are an Offering – ELW 692

We lift our voices,
we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to You;
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices,
Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours;
we are an offering.

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

† Offering Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

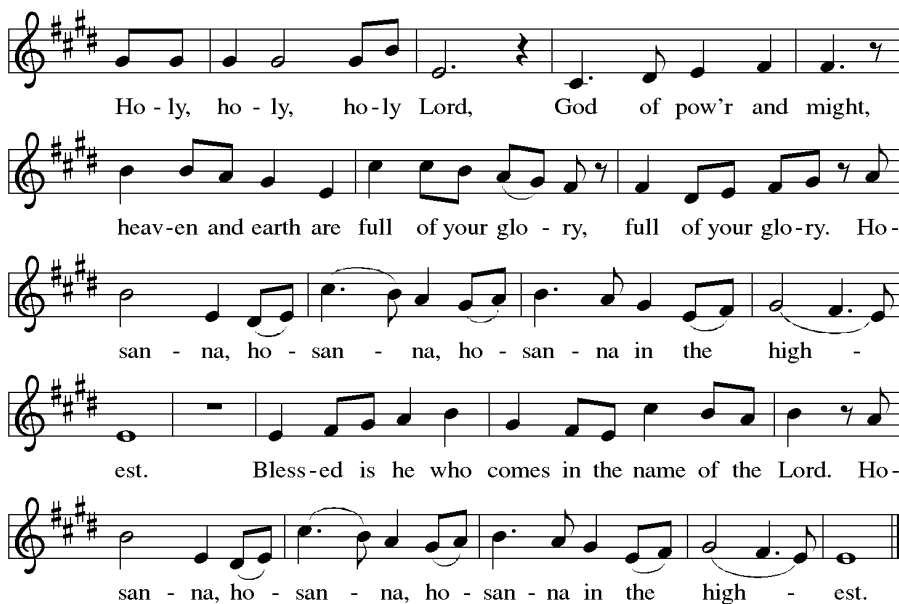
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus



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

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

**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.**

† Invitation to the Table

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good. **Amen.**

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymns

Lord, Your Hands Have Formed – ELW 554

- 1 Lord, your hands have formed this world,
ev'ry part is shaped by you—
water tumbling over rocks,
air, and sunlight: each day's signs
that you make all things new.
- 2 Yours the soil that holds the seed,
you give warmth and moisture, too.
Sprouting blossoms, crops and buds,
trees and plants: the season's signs
that you make all things new.
- 3 Like a mat you roll out land,
space to build for us and you
earthly homes and, better still,
homes for Christ: the truest sign
that you make all things new.

The Word of God Is Source and Seed – ELW 506

- 1 The Word of God is source and seed;
it comes to die and sprout and grow.
So make your dark earth welcome warm;
root deep the grain God bent to sow.

Refrain

- In the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice,
in the Lord let us rejoice!
- 2 The Word of God is breath and life;
it comes to heal and wake and save.
So let the Spirit touch and mend

and rouse your dry bones from their grave. *Refrain*

3 The Word of God is flesh and grace,
who comes to sing, to laugh and cry.
So dare to be as Jesus was,
who came to live and love and die. *Refrain*

Text: Ramon and Sario Oliano; para. James Minchin, b. 1942; tr. Delbert Rice. Text © James Minchin, admin. Asian Institute for Liturgy & Music; admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 1983, 1993 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Sending

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

† Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing – ELW 547

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,

your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human 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 honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Suite 400, Franklin Park, IL 60131. All rights reserved.

*The dismissal
sends us out as
Christ's Body—
fed, nourished,
and ready to
serve. Worship
has ended, and
our service
begins! The
dismissal is
based on Good
Soil's Purpose
Statement.*

† Dismissal

Go in peace as the people of Good Soil:
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve!

Postlude

Coffee Hour is currently paused for the summer.

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Joe Lanter	Reader: Abbie Blocksom
Ushers: Dave Blocksom Larry Jacobson	Counters: Joe Lanter Dave Blocksom
Online Usher: Ellen Young	Acolyte: TJ Lanter



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, July 16th, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Andrew Evatt, Mary Hanson, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, the family and friends of Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Sammie Forshey (July 17th), Jack Johnson (July 21st), and Kathy Berkshire (July 22nd)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:

Lucy Alusheff (July 17th)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God by Mandy Forshey and Ellen Young in honor of Sammie Forshey's birthday.

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

- 1) New Covenant (1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland) - on the fourth Saturday from 8am-12pm, through August. *Please bring in extra plastic bags to help support this ministry or place in the bin in the upstairs hallway.* Upcoming dates: July 22 and August 26.

- 2) Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) - on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm, through November. Upcoming dates: August 19, September 16, October 21, and November 18.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jul 16	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 23	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 30	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 30	Memorial Service for Max Bechtel	3:00 pm

20's and 30's Gather Together Spiritual Hike at 7:00pm on July 27 – Join the West Side ELCA “Gather Together” 20s & 30s group for an evening hike to spend time in ministry together. After the hike, we will segue to a nearby establishment for refreshments. This month, we will meet up at 7:00pm in front of the entrance to the Rocky River Nature Center. Contact Mary Washburn at mary.washburn@outlook.com or 210-241-8455 for questions or weather-related back up plans.

Summer Family Movie and Camp Fire Night August 12th Join your siblings in Christ for a family-friendly night of movies and pizza on Saturday, 8/12 at 5:00 pm. There will be a campfire and ingredients to make s'mores in addition to pizza and lemonade. Bring yourself, a comfy chair or blankets. Event is rain or shine, camp fire is weather permitting. Let us know how many are attending and what food/supplies you can bring by signing up on the sheet on the bulletin board or contacting the church office. Any questions? Contact Adam Pate (419-606-3373) or Jennifer Krankowski (216-372-0012).

Suburban Cooperative Nursery School is currently enrolling for the Fall. There are openings for both three- and four-year-olds for the upcoming school year. For more information, please call 440-331-9929, email suburbancoop@gmail.com, or visit the website at <http://www.suburbancooperative.com>.