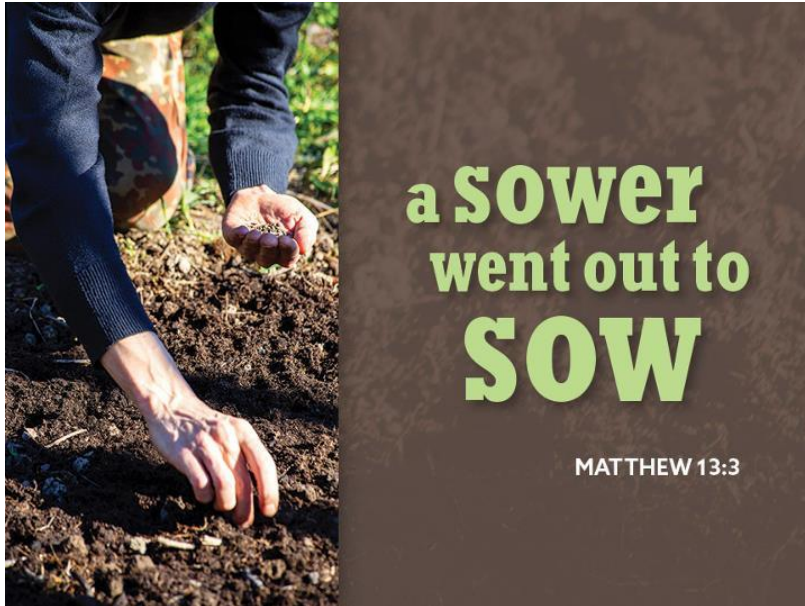




SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026



Introduction

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/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the **✝** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

BEAUTIFUL THINGS

CCLI Song # 5665521

Lisa Gungor | Michael Gungor

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INVOCATION

APOSTOLIC 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



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓜ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓜ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓜ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:





1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho-ly, great cloud of wit-ness-
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash-ing of light-ning,
 4 Walk-ing be-hind to hem my jour-ney, go-ing a-head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up-hold me:
 es-en-fold; proph-ets, a-pos-tles, an-gels wit-ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan-et:
 light my way, and from be-neath, a-bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan b. 1967, Music: Green Tyler, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Text and music ©2004 This Here Music, admin Augsburg Fortress

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.**

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

ROMANS 8: 1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the

mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL (ELW #512)



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.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th Chapter. **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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ**

SERMON

RENE HOLLEBRANDSE

HYMN OF THE DAY

WORD OF GOD SPEAK

CCLI Song # 3912788
Bart Millard | Pete Kipley
© 2002 Songs From The Indigo Room;
Simpleville Music; Curb Wordspring Music

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end with "God of grace" and the response will be "**Hear our prayer**"

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING FOR TRAVELERS TO GUATEMALA

Dear friends in Christ,

Today we send these brothers and sisters as companions in faith. They travel not as tourists or as those who have all the answers, but as learners, listeners, and partners. Together with our companions in Guatemala, they will share stories, worship, work, and discover anew the many ways God is at work through the global church.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have called your Church into one body, gathering people of every nation, language, and culture through the love of Jesus Christ. As these travelers prepare to journey to Guatemala, surround them with your Holy Spirit. Grant them safe travel, open hearts, curious minds, and humble spirits.

Help them to listen more than they speak, to receive as generously as they give, and to recognize Christ in every person they meet. Bless our companions in Guatemala, whose hospitality will welcome these travelers. Strengthen the relationships that unite us as members of your one Church. May this journey deepen our shared commitment to justice, peace, and the proclamation of your Gospel.

Protect this group from harm. Give them patience when plans change, wisdom in every decision, joy in every encounter, and gratitude for the gifts they receive.

Bring them home safely, renewed in faith, enriched by friendship, and eager to share what you have taught them. Go before them on the road, walk beside them each day, and watch over them each night, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

———— MEAL ————

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

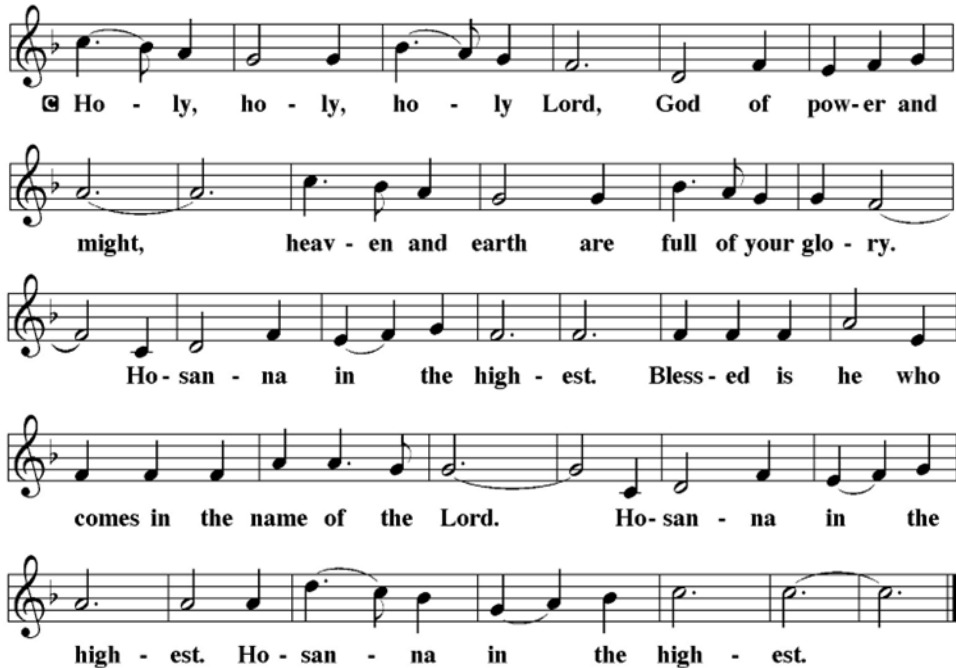
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



JESUS WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

LAMB OF GOD

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

GOD THE SCULPTOR OF THE MOUNTAINS (ELW#736)

COMMUNION BLESSING

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

———— **SENDING** ————

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ✝ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

THE BLESSING

CCLI Song # 7147007
Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE