



*“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.”*

*~Matthew 13:23*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 16, 2023**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!  
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.*

*All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace.*

*We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift as you are comfortable. You may also place any updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates.*

*At the time of **Holy Communion**, all are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor, then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a restroom, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

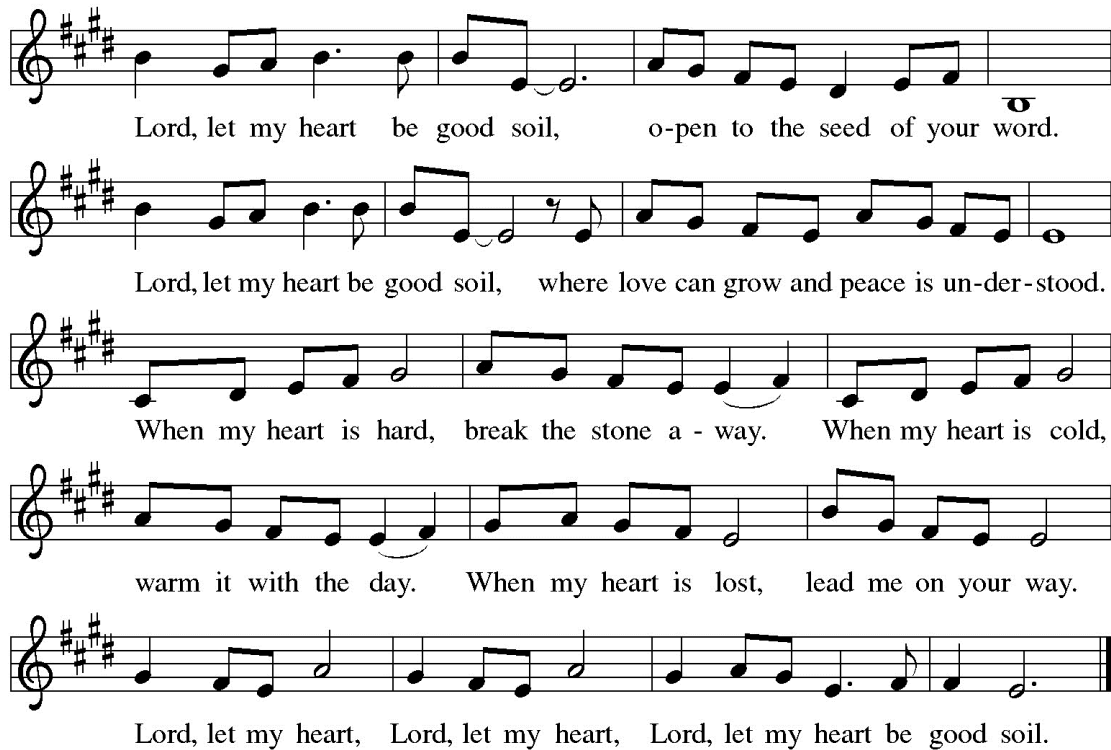
*As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*GATHERING SONG *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* (ELW 512)**

*Sing 3 times through*



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.

### **\*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.**

**\*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.

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have hurt our community.**  
**We have squandered your blessings.**  
**We have hoarded your bounty.**  
**In the name of Jesus,**  
**forgive us and grant us your mercy.**  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**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.**  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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

## \*GLORY TO GOD



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



*¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!*  
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



*Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.*  
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah.

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,*  
*Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya! A - le - lu - ya!*  
*al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!*

## \*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **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 the 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>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<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 the world 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."

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY *As Rain from the Clouds* (ELW 508)**

*(Blue prayer cards are collected)*



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown  
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,



as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.  
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.  
a - wak - ing and warm - ing, and heal - ing our land.



Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow  
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow  
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow



and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.  
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.



We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.  
we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,  
We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.  
for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.



## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of 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**

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence for reflection*

Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct us to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Sustain your creation, O God, 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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Maintain peace among all people, O God, 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. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal those who are sick, O God especially Jeff, Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to aid victims of abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray, O God, for your everlasting presence, trusting that you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We lift the prayers on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

## COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING *This Little Light of Mine* (VBS Style!)

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Even when I'm afraid, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**  
**Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

### \*OFFERTORY *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW 184)



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**\*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.**

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.  
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



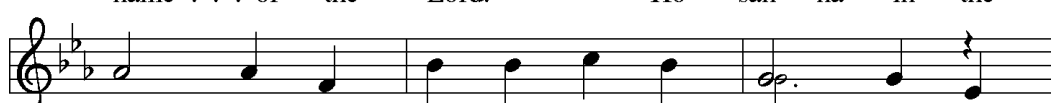
Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



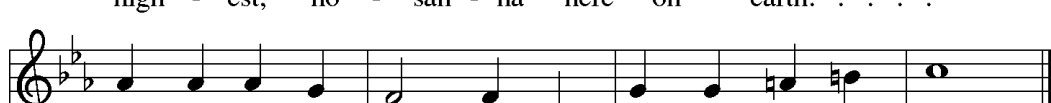
tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el  
earth. . . . . Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el  
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -  
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . . .



di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.  
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
to explain God's love, to show it and share it,  
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.

Remembering therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**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

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for all is now ready.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Those who do not receive the elements of bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

## COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros,                      ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us,                      have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz,                      da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace,                      grant us your peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471)



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.  
**Amen**

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest  
treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*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.**



**\*SENDING SONG** *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**\*DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

*Mark 16:15*

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**The flowers on the altar today are from Dave & Cindy Knauff in honor of their parents.**

**Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Denise Hager**

**Acolyte: Emma Niklewicz**

**Usher:**

**Greeters:**

**Offering: Luca Knauff and Eva Knauff**

**Attendance Last Week: 38 + 4 zoom**

### **Notes for the day's texts:**

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.

### **Today's Music**

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil.* Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Music: Handt Hanson. Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church Forum, Inc.

*As Rain from the Clouds.* Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, Music: Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896; arr. hymnal version. GIA Publications, Inc. / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

*This Little Light of Mine* attributed to Harry Dixon. Arrangement © 2009 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful.* Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*Let Us Break Bread Together.* Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

*For the Fruit of All Creation.* Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

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### **Next Week's Readings**

Isaiah 44:6-8 *There is no other God than the Lord*

Psalms 86:11-17 *Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth*

Romans 8:12-25 *The revealing of the children of God*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 *The parable of the weeds*