



“Lord, let my heart
be good soil.”

*Seventh Sunday
after Pentecost
July 12, 2026*

*Faith Lutheran Church
311 Judges Rd. 2B Wilmington, NC 28405
www.flcwnc.org*

Welcome to our Visitors!

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are glad you are here. It is our sincere prayer that God would refresh you by His Holy Word and Sacrament and that you would take with you His peace and joy. If you would care to give us your contact information, we would like to get to know you better and keep in touch. If you have questions or are interested in membership, please speak to anyone here.

Holy Communion

We come to the table at the invitation of the Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Christians who share this faith and wish to join us at the table are welcome. Young children may be brought forward for a blessing.

Mission Statement

“...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

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Ministers: Members of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Paul Ebert

Director of Parish Music: Debra Ebert

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

LSB Setting Four/Combined Liturgy

*indicates to please stand

Bold-congregation responses

PRELUDE NETTLETON

Setting by Thomas W. Jefferson

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

God our Father does care about us. In His mercy, He has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the church 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. May Almighty God strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

Amen.

***ENTRANCE HYMN Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.



*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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

*KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth;
To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high.
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

***SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

Heavenly Father, scatter the seed of your word in our hearts.

Grant that it may be received in joy, sprout and bear the fruits of your mercy as we grow in faith, hope, and love. Then send us into your world to scatter the seeds of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

FIRST READING

The First Reading is from Isaiah, the 55th chapter.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 65 Read responsively

¹Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

²**O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.**

³When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

⁴**Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!**

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

⁶**the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;**

⁷who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

⁸**so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.**

⁹You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹**You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³**the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

SECOND READING

The Second Reading is from Romans, the 8th chapter.

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***ALLELUIA AND VERSE**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



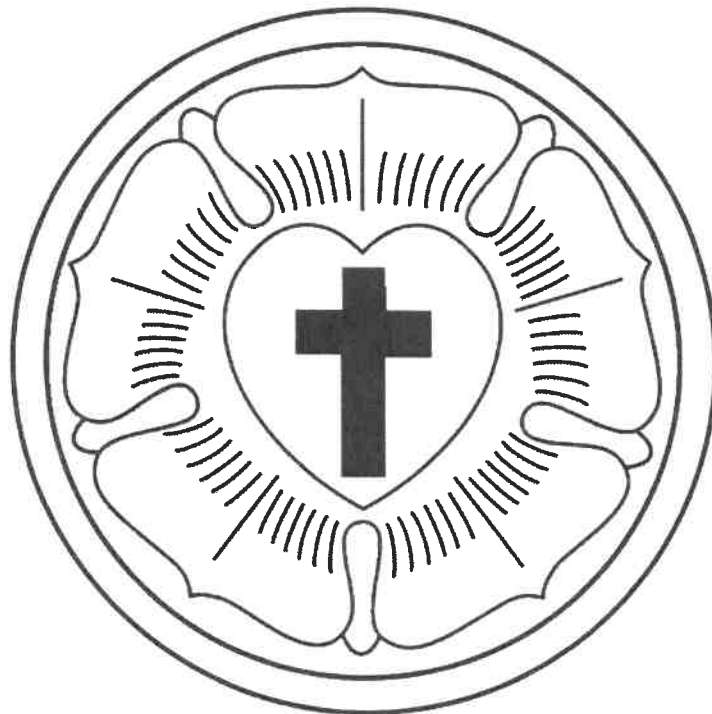
These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



***HOLY GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} “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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he 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 deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He 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.



SERMON: Pr. Heidi Punt

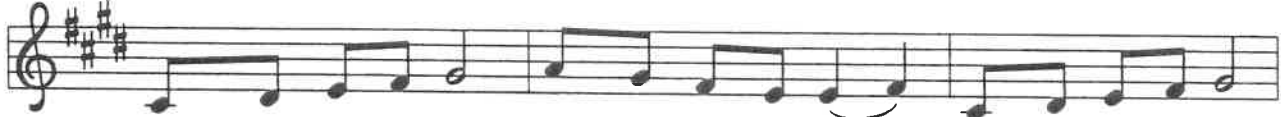
HYMN OF THE DAY Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil



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: Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

GOOD SOIL
PM



***APOSTLES CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 THE CHURCH**

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you.

(At this time we offer each other a sign of Christ's peace)

OFFERTORY “God Leads Us Along” *Organ Solo*

Written by G.A.Young Arr. by Lisa Hoekstra

***WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN**



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be:
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)
MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
S.M.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray...

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up you hearts.

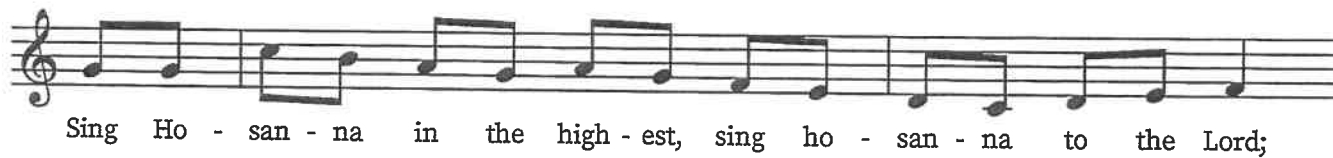
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

*SANCTUS



***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed 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.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed by 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;

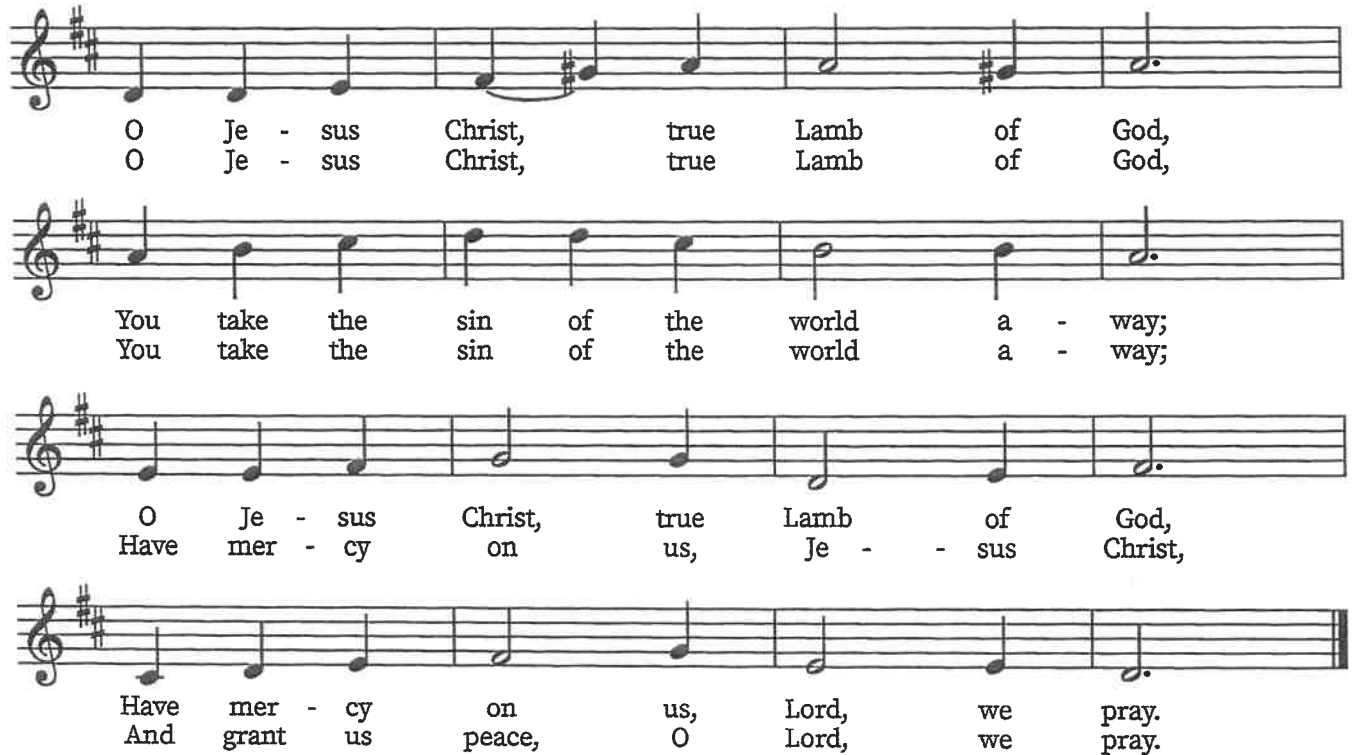
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.



*AGNUS DEI



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Amen.



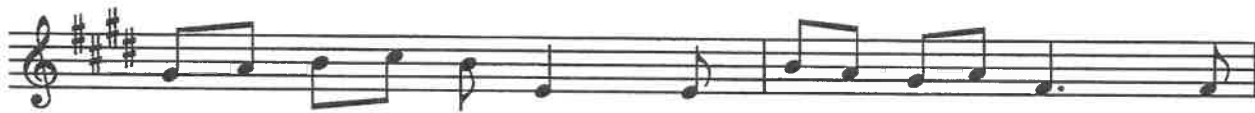
COMMUNION HYMN As the Grains of Wheat



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with-in our midst,
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

Amen.

*NUNC DIMITTIS



O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De
All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re
peo - ple, Your chos - en Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

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.

Amen.

*SENDING HYMN Trees of the Field

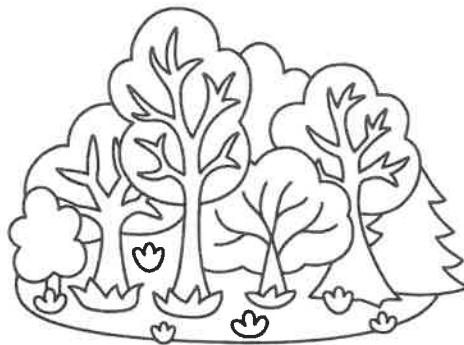
You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the
mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, the trees of the
field will clap their hands, the trees of the field will
clap their hands while you go out with joy.

* X = clap hands.

WORDS: Steffi Geiser Rubin (1950-); para. Isaiah 55:12

MUSIC: Stuart Dauermann (1944-)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Liturgical elements from: The Lutheran Service Book, Lutheran Book of Worship & Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

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Serving the Family of Faith

This Week: 7/12

Reader: Zan Bramley

Communion: Gina Schiess

Fellowship: Jan Zinnecker

Usher: Frank Gray

Next Week: 7/19

Reader: Bill Palmer

Communion: Jan Zinnecker

Fellowship: Jan Zinnecker

Usher: Jerry Bramley

Welcome: Pr. Heidi Punt, Piedmont East Dean, CMR, NALC

Reminder: Pr. Paul and Deb will be gone 7/7 – 7/23

Given to the glory of God: