

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

415 10th Street ~ DeWitt, Iowa 52742 -Church: 563-659-9153 ~ www.gracedewitt.org

+ The Order of Service +

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

July 12, 2026

8:00 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS! We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again.

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 3, beginning on page 184 in the Lutheran Service Book.

The Preservice Music

A Time for Meditation

The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

The Ringing of the Bell

The Words of Welcome by Pastor Merle Warnsholz

Opening Hymn **#655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”**

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. - Text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 103:15-19; antiphon: Ps. 103:8

P The Lord is merciful and gracious,

C **Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P As for man, his days are like grass;

C **He flourishes like a flower of the field;**

P Or the wind passes over it, and it is gone,

C **And its place knows it no more.**

P But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him;

C **And his righteousness to children's children,**

P To those who keep his covenant

C And remember to do his commandments.

P The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,

C And his kingdom rules over all

C 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.

P The Lord is merciful and gracious,

C Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Kyrie - ♪♪♪

C Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis - ♪♪♪

C Glory be to God on High, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

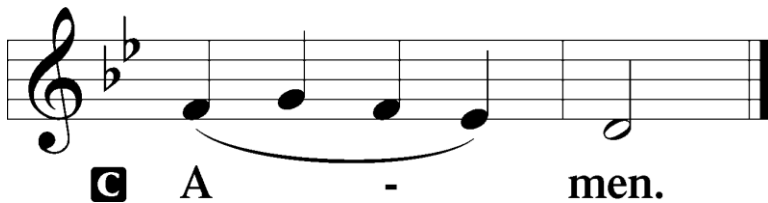
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10–13

“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,
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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

“For 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.
Instead 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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

L Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C **How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

L For from him and through him and to him are all things.

C **To him be glory forever. Amen.**

Epistle

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For 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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

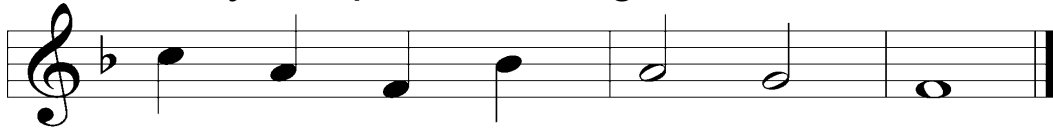
Alleluia - ♪♪

☐ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

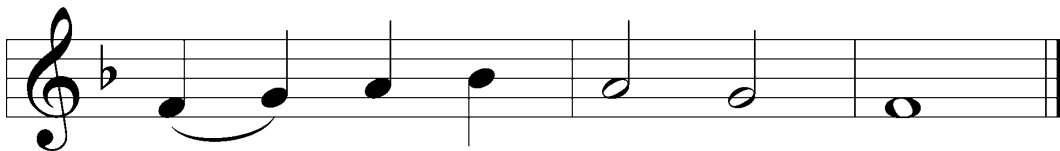
That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

He who has ears, let him hear.”

...“Hear then the parable of the sower: When 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately

receives it with joy, yet 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. As 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. As 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

The Children's Message

Hymn of the Day #686 “Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”

- 1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
 Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
 Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
 Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
 May I still Thy goodness prove.
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
 Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
 Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
 Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
 Interposed His precious blood.
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
 Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
 Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above.
- 4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
 I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
 How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
 Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
 Me to realms of endless day.

Sermon

"A Wonderful Peace"

Isaiah 55:-10-11

Stand

Offertory



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Each petition concludes

P Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

The Closing Hymn **#921 "On What Has Now Been Sown"**

- 1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
- 2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. - Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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