

8:30 am

KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

July 12, 2026

7th Sunday after Pentecost



*Congregation responses in **Bold**.*

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SONG

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Next Page

GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

C **Amen.**

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

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CHORUS

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to
 see You, I want to see You. To see You

VERSE

high and lift - ed up, shin - ing in the light of Your glo - ry.
 Pour out Your pow'r and love; As we sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

BRIDGE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly;
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see You. see You.

Reading Romans 8:1-11

L A reading from the eighth chapter of Romans.

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

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.

continued....

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.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

✠ **GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

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.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*Apostles' Creed*

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C 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 INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Prayer petitions will conclude: "God of grace,"

The congregation's response is: "hear our prayer."

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

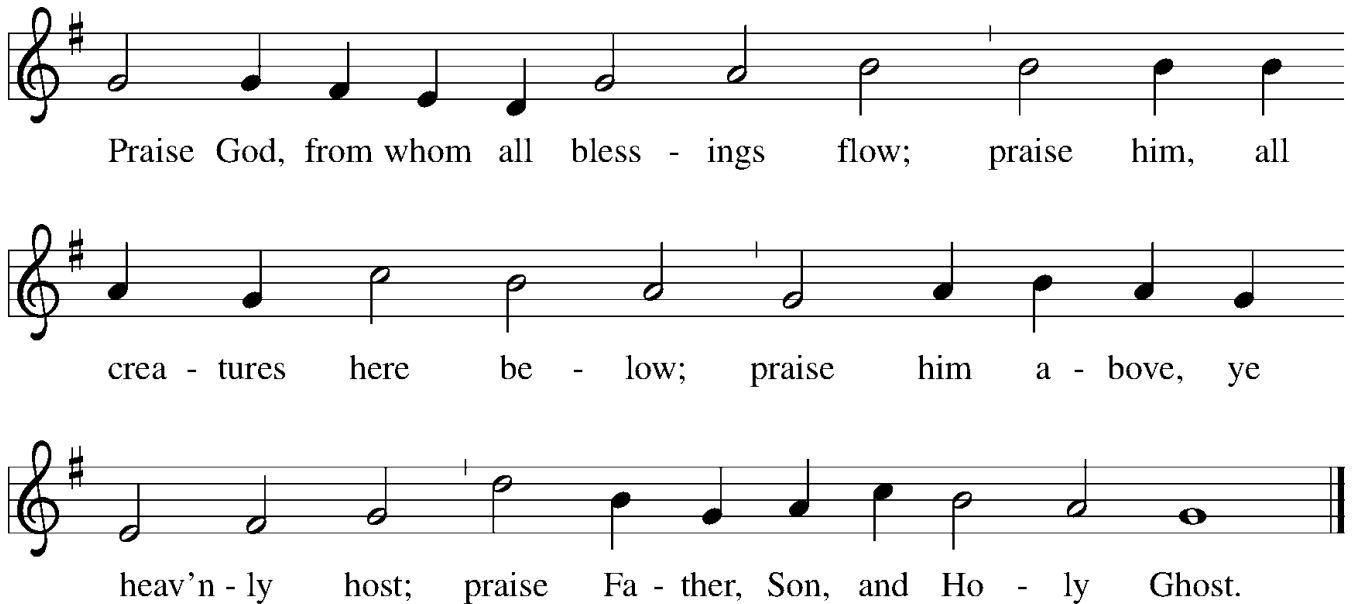
SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

OFFERING SONG *ELW 884 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow* Thomas Ken



OFFERING

The offering plates are in the narthex for your use. You may also place your offering in the plate at the communion rail when you come to the altar for communion. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

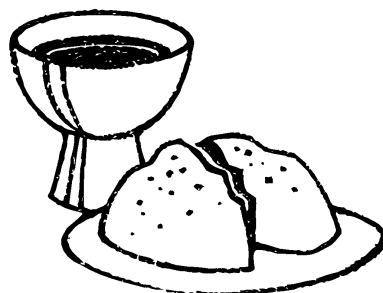
OFFERING PRAYER

P Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged Communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

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.**

INVITATION

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

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG

Seed, Scattered and Sown

Dan Felten

Refrain

Seed scattered and sown, wheat gathered and grown
Bread broken and shared as one
The Living Bread of God, Vine fruit of the land
Wine work of our hands, One cup that is shared by all
The Living Cup, The Living Bread of God

Verse 1

Is not the bread we break, A sharing in our Lord
Is not the cup we bless, The Blood of Christ outpoured

Verse 2

The seed which falls on rock, Will wither and will die
The seed within good ground, Will flower and have life

Verse 3

As wheat upon the hills, Was gathered and was grown
So may the church of God, Be gathered into one

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C **Amen.**

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be - ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"