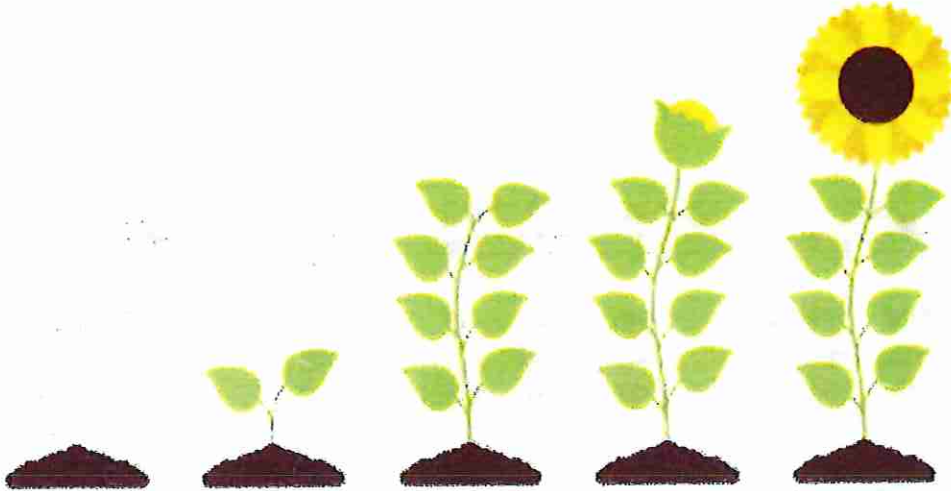


welcome to worship
TIME AFTER PENTECOST
July 12, 2026



PRELUDE

Violin Concerto, second movement
Olivia Szor, violin

Mendelssohn

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all that we have been unable to do for your creation. We have fought with each other, neglected things, looked the other way and hold so much brokenness in our hearts. 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. Send the spirit to guide us always to you. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

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, Creator, † Redeemer, and Advocate, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

God of the Fertile Fields



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the



earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our



boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.



that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

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.**

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.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

READING

Isaiah 55:10-13 (The Message)

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

⁸⁻¹¹ "I don't think the way you think.

The way you work isn't the way I work."

GOD's Decree.

"For as the sky soars high above earth,
so the way I work surpasses the way you work,
and the way I think is beyond the way you think.

Just as rain and snow descend from the skies
and don't go back until they've watered the earth,
Doing their work of making things grow and blossom,
producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry,
So will the words that come out of my mouth
not come back empty-handed.

They'll do the work I sent them to do,
they'll complete the assignment I gave them.

¹²⁻¹³ "So you'll go out in joy,
you'll be led into a whole and complete life:

The mountains and hills will lead the parade,
bursting with song.

All the trees of the forest will join the procession,
exuberant with applause.

No more thistles, but giant sequoias,
no more thornbushes, but stately pines—

Monuments to me, to GOD,
living and lasting evidence of GOD."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 512

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (The Message)

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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

13 ¹⁻³ At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

³⁻⁸ "What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

⁹ "Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ "Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn't take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person's heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

²⁰⁻²¹ "The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

²² "The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

²³ "The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams."

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

SERMON

Pastor Tom

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes God of grace, **receive our prayer.***

*The prayers conclude ... through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.***

PEACE

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

OFFERING

If you brought an offering or your pledge card today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERING HYMN 550

On What Has Now Been Sown

The assembly stands.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, Three-in-One, you alone are holy.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

Following the words of institution...

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

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

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

COMMUNION MUSIC

ELW 508 *As Rain from the Clouds*

ELW 679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING

May the Spirit give you grace never to sell yourself or others short.

Grace to risk something big for something good.

Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

So may the Spirit take your mind and think through it.

May the Spirit take your lips and speak through them.

May the Spirit take your hands and do good with them.

May the Spirit take your heart and set it on fire. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 547 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Patiently grow in God's grace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Allegro maestoso e vivace (from Organ Sonata No. 2)* Mendelssohn

Assisting with Worship

Carolyn Wheeler, greeter

Mick Bryan, head usher

Dave Hershey, assisting minister

Eli Hershey, lector

Susan Beam, Joanne Gabel, Barb Mishler, Sally Youngcourt, communion assistants

Crystal Shirk, Zoe Shirk, sound booth

Susan Mehos, altar captain

Matt Lepera, sexton

Katie Lyon, *Pastor*

Molly Haggerty, *Transition Pastor of Community Engagement*

Tom Yenser, *Deacon*

Jen Dauber, *Preschool Director*

Lauryn Lacis, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Arthur Wyse, *Visitation Pastor*

Crystal Shirk, *Office Manager*

Amy Rogers, *Financial Secretary*

Tom Scornavacchi, *Mission Developer*

Michelle Endy, *Room Coordinator*

Ken Lord, *Congregational Health Advocate*

Ellen Bryan, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

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The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ The Rev. Molly Haggerty ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

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WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available with the ushers. The nursery will not be staffed for the summer, but the PRIVACY ROOM at the back of the church is available for families who would like a little extra wiggles room.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Monday—Thursday, 10:30am—2:30pm or by appointment.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

FOOD DONATIONS of canned goods, cereal, and other non-perishable, non-expired items for Lutheran Pantry are always accepted in the grocery cart in the narthex.

COMMON GROUND DONATIONS of clothing and toiletries can be placed in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex.

PRESCHOOL still has openings for Together Time, T/Th Toddlers, and 3-year-olds. Contact Jen Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org for information.

OUR LANDSCAPING TEAM is looking for new members! Contact John Lehr for details at 610-304-6818 or johnt.lehr@gmail.com.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION continues throughout the summer at 9am in room F122.

YOUTH who have completed 6th-12th grade are invited to join Pastor Katie at the Western Berks Mission District Mini Mission Trip Monday, July 27. We will meet on Monday at 8:15am at Atonement and be back at Atonement by 5pm. Contact Pastor Katie at klyone@atonementwyo.org if you are interested.

MINISTRY MEAL SIGN-UP SHEETS are in the narthex. Join us for a meal while helping us focus on strategic planning and getting to know one another in the process.

ATONEMENT WILL HOST FAMILY PROMISE the weeks of July 13 and July 20. Use the link at atonementwyo.org (select GIVE/VOLUNTEER from home screen, then scroll down to Family Promise) to see how you can help!

JOIN US at a BICENTENNIAL BLOCK PARTY, Saturday, July 18, Christ Church, Reading, where Common Ground will co-host a booth with Trinity. 12-5pm, Court Street between 4th & 5th.

USHERS NEEDED! Ushering is a great way to meet people and serve the Atonement community. The commitment is about one week per month. Please contact the office if you have questions or would like to be added to one of our usher teams.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

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: Handt Hanson

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

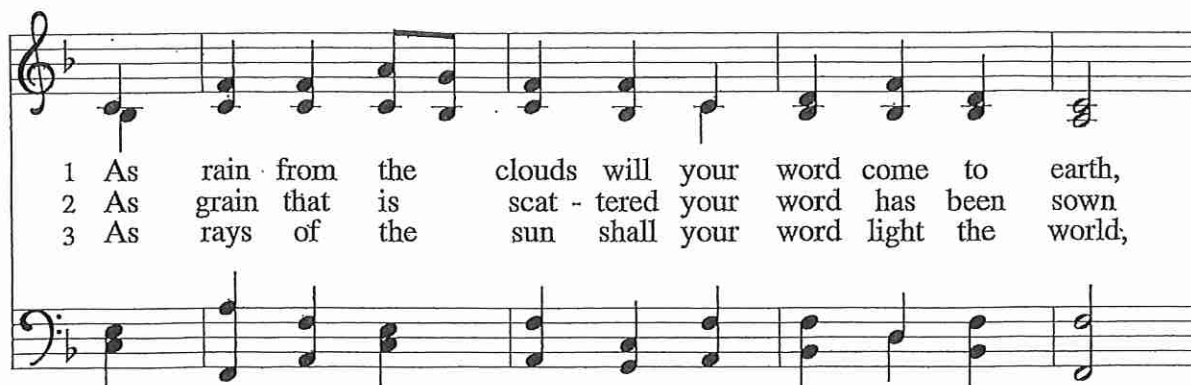
GOOD SOIL

PM

1 On what has now been sown your blessing Lord, be - stow; the
 2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
 3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
 cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,
 meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

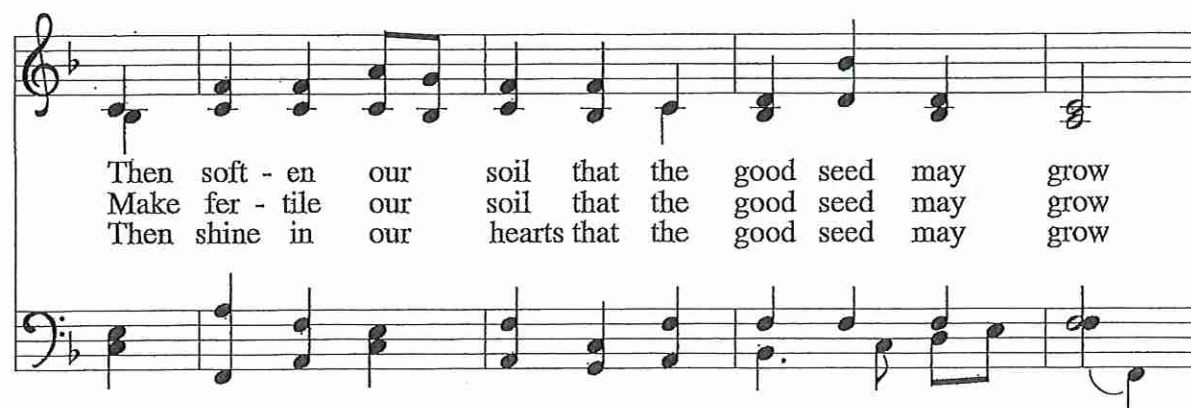
grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
 Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
 you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!



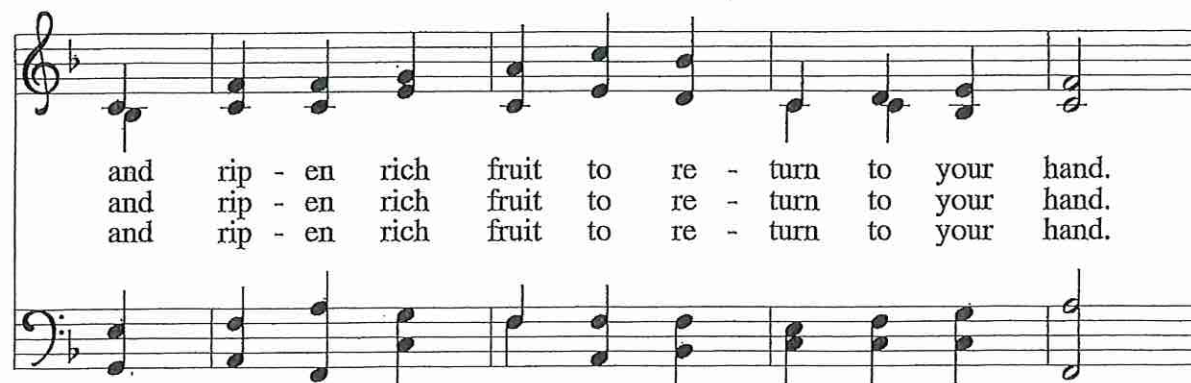
1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world;



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.

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.

547

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



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 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.