



July 12, 2026 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

“For the rain and the snow do not return to heaven, but accomplish in the earth the will of Him that sends them. So the word that He shall send through His Christ, Who is Himself the Word and the Message, shall return to Him with great power. For when He shall come and bring it, He shall come down like rain and snow, and through Him all that is sown shall spring up and bear righteous fruit, and the word shall return to His sender; but not in vain shall His going have been, but thus shall He say in the presence of His sender: —*Behold, I and the children that the Lord has given Me.* And this is the voice through which the dead shall live.” – St. Aphrahat (3rd-4th century A.D.) in reference to our Old Testament reading.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 834, “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth”*

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 55:11; Romans 10:14, 17; Matthew 13:23*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: As the rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth,

People: **so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;**

Pastor: It shall not return to me empty,

People: **but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

Pastor: How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?

People: **How are they to hear without someone preaching?**

Pastor: So faith comes from hearing,

People: **and hearing through the word of Christ.**

Pastor: The seed that was sown on good soil is the one who hears the word and understands it.

People: **He indeed bears fruit.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: **to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: When we examine our hearts and consciences,

People: **we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves.**

Pastor: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. We take a moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **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.**

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

People: **Yes.**

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 577, "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

CATECHISM *The Fifth Commandment (Exodus 20:13; LSB 321)*

Pastor: What is the fifth commandment?

People: **You shall not murder.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:10–13*

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, ¹¹ 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. ¹² "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. ¹³ 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."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalms 65*

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

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

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

People: **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!**

Pastor: By 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;

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

Pastor: who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,
People: **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.**

Pastor: You 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.

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

Pastor: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

People: **The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,**

Pastor: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,

People: **the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.**

EPISTLE READING *Romans 8:12–17*

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ 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!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ 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, 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

produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him 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 has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along 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 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSORY

Pastor: Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Pastor: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

HYMN *LSB 578, “Thy Strong Word”*

SERMON *“God’s Word Accomplishes” (Isaiah 55:10-13).*

Apostle’s Creed

All: 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 782, “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”*

PRAYER

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For ... let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

Pastor: We pray together:

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 921, "On What Has Now Been Sown"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Next Week's Readings: July 19, 2026 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 119:57-64

Romans 8:18-27

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Service adapted from Prayer and Preaching (LSB 260-267) and Corporate Confession and Absolution (LSB 290-291). As We Gather quote from St. Aphrahat can be found in paragraph 15 on this website:

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/370108.htm> or in *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers* vol. 13 page 380.



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of July 12, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Rob & Marlo Springer Family
St. John's, Monett - Rev. Andrew Kennell

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Becky (Cheryl Lile's friend – fighting an infection)
Ardella – (health and healing)

Sharon Crandall (health & healing)
Eldrid Holle (Kathy Holle's uncle – hospice)

Tammy Ardrey – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
 Rick Bauer – (Gladys' son – health and healing)
 Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)
 Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – (health and healing)
 Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
 Teri Ediger – (health and healing from surgery)
 Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son of Teri)
 McGee family – (health and healing)
 Glenda – (Teri Ediger's step–mother – health and healing)
 Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer–Wolf)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
 Blazi & Jamie – (friends of Jaycee & Ty – health and healing cancer)
 Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son–in–law's mother)
 Aaron (grandson of Bill & Joanne)
 Beverly Lofton – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
 Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
 Rebecca – (Kathy Holle's relative – health and healing from cancer)
 Emma S. – (recovery after hospital stay)
 Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
 Baby Vada – (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)
 Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Gladys Bauer – (health and healing)
 Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
 Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
 Rev. Johannes Brann – (health and healing/peace and comfort)
 Rev. Brian and Jessica Chisamore – (health and healing for Jessica)
 Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
 Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
 Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken–hip)
 Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
 Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
 Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
 Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
 Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
 Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
 Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
 Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
 Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)
 Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister–in–Law – health & healing)
 Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
 Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
 LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
 Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
 Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
 Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
 June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

		WEEK
Sunday	July 12th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	July 13th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Thursday	July 16th	Elders – 9:00 am Council – 11:00 am Confirmation - 5:30 pm
Friday	July 17th	Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	July 18th	Game Night - 6:00 pm - Pizza & Games
Sunday	July 19th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with communion
Monday	July 20th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm

Birthdays: July 15-Cathy Munden; July 18-Barbara Martin

Anniversaries: July 15-James & Angela Sharp; July 19-Larry & Jodi Wright

July

Greeters

12: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer
 19: Charlie & Edith Chambers
 26: Bill and Joanne Michel

Ushers

12: David Lampe
 19: Charlie Chambers
 26: Matthew Springer



NO Joint Service! We will NOT have a joint worship service at Trinity on August 16. We WILL meet here at Grace just like normal!