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**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 12, 2026**

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

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## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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### **PRELUDE**

***We Plow the Fields and Scatter***

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

One License #10-764

***Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty***

Arr. Melvin Rotermund

One License #109746

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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 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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

***Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* RED ELW #533  
(Vs. 1 & 2)**

- 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,  
Zion, let me enter there,  
where my soul in joyful duty  
waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place,  
filled with solace, light, and grace!**
- 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;  
come thou also unto me;  
where we find thee and adore thee,  
there a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter thou,  
let it be thy temple now!**

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.  
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## **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.**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.

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**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

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**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13**

*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.*

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13**

[ <sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> **To you, the one who answers prayer,  
to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup> Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your  
temple.**

<sup>5</sup> Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup> **You make firm the mountains by your power;  
you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup> You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.  
<sup>8</sup> **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]**  
<sup>9</sup> You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of  
God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**  
<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty.  
<sup>12</sup> **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.**  
<sup>13</sup> May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves  
with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness.<sup>11</sup> 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia* RED ELW page 205**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.**

**Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON ON THE STEPS**

### **SERMON**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

***We Plow the Fields and Scatter* RED ELW #681  
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

- 1 We plow the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand,  
who sends the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.**

#### ***Refrain***

**All good gifts around us  
are sent from heav'n above.  
We thank you, Lord,  
we thank you, Lord,  
for all your love.**

**3 We thank you, our creator,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seedtime and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
for all your love imparts,  
but what you most would treasure—  
our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain***

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.  
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### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

**God of grace, hear our prayer.**

### **THE PEACE**

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## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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### OFFERING

***God Himself Is Present***

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

One License #10-752

### OFFERING HYMN

***Praise and Thanksgiving*** RED ELW #689

**(Vs. 1)**

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

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One License #13262

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.  
Amen.**

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

### **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

**RED ELW page 207**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord, Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in 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 sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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 TO COMMUNION

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

## COMMUNION

*(Zion practices an open table. God welcomes everyone to come forward. Young children may receive bread and a blessing. If you prefer not to receive, fold your hands and receive a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available; please ask your servers. Come to the Lord's table and share in the feast!)*

## LAMB OF GOD

RED ELW page 208

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

***Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness***

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

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***Beautiful Savior***

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## COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

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## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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### BLESSING

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

### CLOSING HYMN

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing* RED ELW #547

- 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended.  
Oh, now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of Christ's teaching,  
receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
Your grace shall incite us,  
your love shall unite us  
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving  
to God ever-living,  
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—  
our faith ever sharing,  
in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children, the whole human race.  
With your feast you feed us,  
with your light now lead us;  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
with praise and thanksgiving  
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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## **DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

***Allegro Maestoso***

Arr. G. F. Handel

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Account #73982207—6/30/2027

## Weekly Announcements



Please  
be  
Praying  
for...

Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

**Hunger Jar** for the month of July is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

**Feed My Starving Children**—Monday, July 27. Packing session from 5-6:15pm. Sign up on the clipboard near Pr. Gretchen's office.

**CampHouse Ordinary Time**—August 13-16. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

A sign up sheet for parking cars during the Sibley County Fair is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex and on the table near Pastor Gretchen's office.



| <b>Date</b> | <b>Weekly<br/>Operating<br/>Offerings</b> | <b>Weekly<br/>Operating<br/>Goal</b> | <b>Debt<br/>Retirement</b> | <b>ELCA<br/>Missions</b> | <b>Hunger<br/>Jar</b> | <b>Parking<br/>Lot</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 7/5/2026    | \$ 2,028.00                               | <b>\$ 4,038.31</b>                   | \$ -                       | \$ 49.00                 | \$ 49.00              | \$ 50.00               |

## **Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla**

952-237-1060

[pastor@zionarlington.org](mailto:pastor@zionarlington.org)

Hours for the week of July 12

Wednesday, July 15—2:30p-4p

Thursday, July 16—11a-4p

by appointment

Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

## Worship Assistants

### **July 12**

Usher: Larry & Pam Schiroo  
Kevin Kamps, Adilyn Kamps  
Greeter: Jan Wark  
Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez  
Reader: Wendy Pederson  
AV Team: Jan Giesen & Jeremiah Vazquez  
Altar Guild: Lana Woehler  
& Peg Kamps  
Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

### **July 19**

Usher: Jon Hazelwood, Elton Hazelwood  
Stephanie Krueger, Murdock Krueger  
Greeter: Wayne & Ann Werner  
Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps  
Reader: Nancy Mathwig  
AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)  
Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN  
[www.zionarlington.org](http://www.zionarlington.org)

Zion Lutheran Church  
814 West Brooks St. P.O. Box 371  
Arlington, MN 55307  
Church: 507-964-5454  
Email: [zion.elca.814@gmail.com](mailto:zion.elca.814@gmail.com)  
Web: [zionarlington.org](http://zionarlington.org) // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



## *Zion Lutheran Church ELCA*

### This Week at Zion:

|                   |                          |                                                                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, July 12   | 9:00a                    | <b>Worship w/Holy Communion</b>                                          |
| Tuesday, July 14  | 10:00a<br>1:00p<br>3:00p | Quilting<br>Ecumenical Planning Meeting<br>Anniversary Committee Meeting |
| Thursday, July 16 | 10:00a                   | Adult Bible Study                                                        |
| Friday, July 17   |                          | August Newsletter Deadline                                               |
| Saturday, July 18 | 8:00a                    | Men's Prayer Breakfast                                                   |
| Sunday, July 19   | 9:00a                    | <b>Worship</b>                                                           |

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

