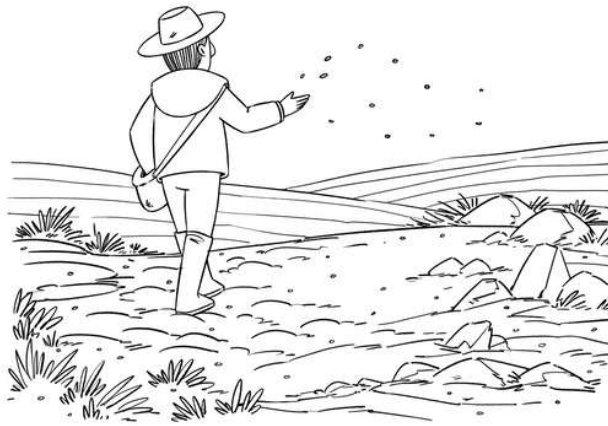


**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**



AS WE GATHER

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus shows us the reckless generosity of God. The sower scatters seed everywhere... Some falls on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil. He does not carefully ration the seed only for the places that seem most promising. So it is with the Word of God. The Gospel is given abundantly and generously. He provides the growth.

This is good news for us, because our hearts have not always been good soil.

Yet Christ continues to sow His Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. He Himself is the Seed cast into the earth in death, rising again to bear a harvest of life.

Welcome to all of our Members, Guests, and Visitors today, if you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor after service in the Narthex. We here at St. Matthew pray that you enjoyed your time worshiping with us today.

Hymn of Invocation TLH 394 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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.*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.*

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.*

Kyrie

LSB 186

C *Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:
C *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 spirit.*

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.

C *Amen.*

Sit

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,
¹¹so 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.
¹³Instead 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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:12–17

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

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

C *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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. ²³As 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 the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day TLH 476 Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.*

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Holy Lord, Your Word does not return to You empty but accomplishes Your purpose. By Your Spirit, make our hearts good soil for Your Word, that by such faith we may bring forth in our lives the good works to which You have called us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of life, continue to sow Your Word through the fields of the earth. Bless pastors and missionaries as they proclaim Your truth.

Prepare the hearts of all who hear to believe and yield abundant fruit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, bless parents with faithfulness as they plant Your Word into their children, that they may grow steadfast among the cares and troubles of this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, all the nations of the earth are Yours, and besides You there is no other God. Give our leaders the desire for peace and stability and the ability to govern wisely. Let them plead the cause of widows and orphans and serve the needs of the least among us. Bring an end to war and strife, and allow all to live in peace and safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, look with mercy upon those who suffer from illness of body or mind. [*Be especially with _____.*] Give them healing. Comfort them with Your presence. Grant them patience to endure suffering, and assure them at all times that they are Your dear children and that the glory of Christ awaits them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, we give You thanks for the many blessings You pour out upon us. Preserve us by Your Word, that our faith might not be choked by the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches, but that we may use all Your gifts in faithful service to You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

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.

P The Lord be with you.

C *And with thy spirit.*

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

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 *Amen, amen, amen.*

Hymn to Depart TLH 54 Guide Me, O Great Jehovah

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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