EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Hope in the Harvest
July 15, 18 & 19, 2026

AS WE GATHER
It happens at the ballpark. The first few notes play over the loudspeaker and suddenly everyone in the bleachers is singing along. It happens at the restaurant. Servers burst into “Happy Birthday,” and diners young and old become a choir to serenade a stranger. Today, the world is singing together another song. The song your heart sings when pain lingers, when people leave, and when promises are broken echoes through all creation. The earth itself groans with you for a new song to sing. And the first verse begins here in worship, as we sing together of the hope we have of Christ’s return and restoration when the world will once again sing with one voice, now of the glory of our King, Jesus!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

VERSE
"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forevermore. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #794 “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven;
The Father’s own dear Son, whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

(Rise) The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the everliving,
To whom the heav’nly host Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
People: so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD:
Pastor: that He looked down from His holy height;
People: to hear the groans of the prisoners,
Pastor: to set free those who were doomed to die,
People: that they may declare in Zion the name of the LORD.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION
Pastor: Let us confess to the Lord our sins and trust in His salvation.
People: “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”
Pastor: Almighty God, you spoke a perfect world into being, yet now your creation bears the stains and scars of our failure.
People: “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”
Pastor: We bear responsibility for the suffering around us, filling the world with evil and failing to do the good we ought.
People: “I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.”
Pastor: Our hearts are crushed beneath the burden of our sin and with longing for the world to be made right.

People: "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope."

Pastor: Forgive us, O God, for you are faithful and just and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope."

Pastor: Your hope is met by the redemption and renewal of our God found in His Son, Jesus Christ, who was given to die for you, and for whose sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB p. 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. ***Refrain***

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. ***Refrain***

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ***Refrain***

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ***Refrain***

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 44:6–8* (The unrivaled Lord reinforces His power, peace, and purpose for His people.) Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8 Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:18–27* (Creation groans in hope for the glory yet to be revealed.) 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43* (Jesus shares and interprets His story of harvest and final judgment.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[24] He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, [25] but while his men were
sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.
[26] So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.
[27] And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did
you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ [28] He said to
them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want
us to go and gather them?’ [29] But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you
root up the wheat along with them. [30] Let both grow together until the harvest,
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them
in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’ [36] Then he left the
crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain
to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” [37] He answered, “The one who sows
the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, and the good seed
is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, [39] and the
enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the
reapers are angels. [40] Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will
it be at the end of the age. [41] The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will
gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, [42] and throw
them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their
Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.
(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’ S MESSAGE

“This is My Commandment”

This is My commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.
This is my commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.
This is my commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.

SERMON HYMN #892 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God’s own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide;
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

SERMON **“At Peace Among the Weeds”** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

(Rise)

OFFERTORY LSB p. 192

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.

APOSTLES' CREED

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.
(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Pastor: Lord, continue to raise up witnesses in this and every place who faithfully proclaim Your Word. Grant that Your Church may remain good soil, bringing forth an abundant harvest.

People: Bless all pastors and church workers as they sow Your Word in the fields entrusted to them.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, pour out the blessing of Your Holy Spirit on the delegates who are assembled in convention this week. Give wisdom to those who propose, deliberate and decide for the work and welfare of our Synod.

People: Guard all who speak and all who listen. Give us courage to do with integrity what we promise. Bless our plans and actions, and grant success. Only let our manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

Pastor: Loving God, we thank You for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of those who mourn especially the Stefanic and Krahn families as they remember their mom's 90th birthday, on behalf of the sick, the dying, the aged, the infirm, and especially Nancy, Patrick, Sharon, Michael, Barb, Marlene, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Rhonda, Harland, June, Cathy, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill and Sarah. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, preserve us in hope for what we do not see. Grant that we would receive Your Holy Supper with hearts free from pride, presumption or any other sin that would profane His precious body and blood.

People: May we rejoice in His bodily presence for our forgiveness.

Pastor: We entrust all these petitions to Your care, loving Father, confident in Your great mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is worshiped together with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and

8 magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #769 "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only you can teach me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see your purpose and your will-
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

9 continued

Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear
Of human need; O give me eyes to see
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,
My life in you, O Christ; your love in me.

HYMN #693 "O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace"

O Holy Spirit, grant us grace That we our Lord and Savior
In faith and fervent love embrace And truly serve Him ever.
The hour of death cannot bring loss When we are sheltered by the cross
That canceled our transgressions.

Help us that we Thy saving Word In faithful hearts may treasure;
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford New grace in richest measure.
O make us die to ev'ry sin, Each day create new life within,
that fruits of faith may flourish.

And when our earthly race is run, Death's bitter hour impending,
Then may Thy work in us begun continue till life's ending,
Until we gladly may commend Our souls into our Savior's hand,
The crown of life obtaining.

HYMN #700 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

10 continued

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN #663 "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"

Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o'ertaken;
For the foe, Well we know,
Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.

Watch against the devil's snares Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares To deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.

Watch! Let not the wicked world With its lies defeat you
Lest withhold deceptions hurled It betray and cheat you.
Watch and see Lest there be
Faithless friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.

Watch against yourself, my soul, Lest with grace you trifle;
Let not self your thoughts control Nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin Lurk within,
All your hopes to shatter; Heed not when they flatter.

But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing,
So that still Mind and will
Shall unite to serve Him And forever love him.

Preacher & Liturgist	Pastor Michael Schumacher
Lectors	Gary Knight, Katie Librizzi
Organist	Deaconess Carole King

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