

# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 7, 2024

## THE ORDER FOR WORSHIP

### As We Gather

Life is not always easy. Life in and of faith is often less easy. In our readings today we encounter a few people who faced difficulty and challenges amid their godly callings. Ezekiel would be sent to speak the Word of God to a rebellious people who wouldn't happily receive the message. The apostle Paul would face his own personal struggles with his "thorn . . . in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) as he brought the Gospel to many on his mission journeys. Jesus Himself would not be welcomed as Savior when He returned to His hometown of Nazareth. Though things were far from easy, God would bless the work that He called His people and His own Son to do. Even in our times of difficulty and challenges living as His people, we are reminded of the same truth from the Lord: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

### Opening Proclamation (Psalm 118:24)

P "This is the day the Lord has made...

C **We will rejoice and be glad in it."**

### Welcome & Announcements

### Opening Hymn LSB 966 Before You, Lord, We Bow

- 1 Before You, Lord, we bow,  
Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below,  
Boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring  
In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise  
To You, our King!
  
- 2 The nation You have blest  
May well Your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest,  
Protected by Your care.  
For this bright day,  
For this fair land—  
Gifts of Your hand—  
Our thanks we pay.

3 May ev'ry mountain height,  
Each vale and forest green,  
Shine in Your Word's pure light,  
And its rich fruits be seen!  
May ev'ry tongue  
Be tuned to praise  
And join to raise  
A grateful song.

4 Earth, hear your Maker's voice;  
Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice,  
And worship Him alone.  
Cast down your pride,  
Your sin deplore,  
And bow before  
The Crucified.

5 And when in pow'r He comes,  
Oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs  
Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng,  
With joy to sing  
To heav'n's high King  
Salvation's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779-1843, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Invocation

P In the name of the Father,  
C **who loved us and sent His Son to set us free.**

P In the name of His T Son, Jesus,  
C **whose sacrifice gives us freedom and peace.**

P In the name of the Holy Spirit,  
C **who brings us to faith and sustains our faith through the working of water and the Word. Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P Almighty and eternal God, You have blessed us with a free land, having rights and privileges others dream about. We live

in a land where liberty is given to us. With freedom also comes temptation to misuse our freedom.

**C Forgive us, Lord, for misusing freedom in selfish ways. Keep us from squandering the precious opportunities You have given to us by the many freedoms we have.**

**P** For these sins and all sins, sins of thought, word, and deed; by what we have done or failed to do,

**C we stand before You now, asking Your forgiveness, and for the help of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.**

**P** Hear the Good News! God has heard your confession. He has called me, a called and ordained servant of our King, to deliver this message to you: your sins are forgiven because of the cross of Christ. Receive that forgiveness in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen! Thank You, Lord, for forgiving me. Help me, by the aid of Your Holy Spirit, to relish the freedoms You have given us as Christians and as a country.**

## Hymn of Praise LSB 965 God Bless Our Native Land

1 God bless our native land;  
Firm may she ever stand  
Through storm and night.  
When the wild tempests rave,  
Ruler of wind and wave,  
Do Thou our country save  
By Thy great might.

2 So shall our prayers arise  
To God above the skies;  
On Him we wait.  
Thou who art ever nigh,  
Guarding with watchful eye,  
To Thee aloud we cry:  
God save the state!

Text (st. 1): Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, alt.; (st. 2): John S. Dwight, 1813–93, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Introit

*Psalms 67*

**P** Let the peoples praise You, O God;

**C let all the peoples praise You!**

**P** May God be gracious to us and bless us

C **and make His face to shine upon us,**

P that Your way may be known on earth,

C **Your saving power among all nations.**

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise You!**

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

C **for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;

C **let all the peoples praise You!**

P The earth has yielded its increase;

C **God, our God, shall bless us.**

P God shall bless us;

C **let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.**

## Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious God, You have given our country a precious gift—the gift of freedom. As we celebrate that gift from You today, help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to remember the greater gift of freedom in the cross and empty tomb of Jesus, who gives us freedom now and eternally, with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, one Lord, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Ezekiel 2:1–5*

A The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 2.

<sup>1</sup> He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” <sup>2</sup>And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ <sup>5</sup>And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle Reading

*2 Corinthians 12:1–10*

A The Epistle is from 2 Corinthians, chapter 12.

<sup>1</sup>I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. <sup>3</sup>And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—<sup>4</sup>and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Mark 6:1–13*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” <sup>5</sup>And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup>And he marveled because of their unbelief.

And he went about among the villages teaching.

<sup>7</sup>And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—<sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Catechism

- C **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.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

P What are the identifying characteristics of the Church?

C **The identifying marks that guarantee the presence of the Church are the pure proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments. Where these are, the Spirit creates faith. God's Word of promise is sure and does what it says.**

P What are some other outward indications that the Church is present?

C **Such things as gatherings for prayer and worship, the fruits of faith, and suffering for Christ also serve as good outward indications that the Church is present without guaranteeing it. The Church also uses the Office of the Keys to rebuke and to forgive sins, as well as to consecrate ministers to preach and teach on behalf of all.**

P What is the mission of the Church on earth?

C **The Church's mission is to confess and proclaim the forgiveness of sins for Jesus' sake by preaching the Word, administering the Sacraments, sending missionaries, and establishing new congregations and by the daily witness of the baptized children of God, His royal priesthood.**

P What are some of the privileges and responsibilities of members of the Church?

C **We should regularly receive the Word and Sacraments within the community of believers.**

P We should belong to congregations that confess and teach the pure Word of God.

- C **We should beware of and avoid false teachings, false teachers, and organizations that promote false teaching.**
- P We should tell others about Jesus, participate in works of mercy and service, and support the ministry of the church with prayer and financial gifts.

## Hymn of the Day LSB 839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

- 1 O Christ, our true and only light,  
Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear Your voice  
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
- 2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
The souls now lost in error's maze;  
Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
- 3 O gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.
- 4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
- 5 That they with us may evermore  
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore  
And endless praise to You be giv'n  
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

## Offertory Hymn

*LSB 159*

- C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the  
name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of  
the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all  
His people,**

**in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **Offering**

**Special Music by Liz Burney (solo) see insert**

## **Prayer of the Church**

P Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. God of continued mercy, Your power is made perfect in weakness and Your grace is sufficient for us. As You called people of the past to proclaim the way of salvation, so also use us as Your instruments to proclaim the Gospel and to live as lights even among scorn and despising from a sinful world. Sustain Your church to remain strong in faith until the day You make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Sending Father, when Your Son was in this world, He was rejected in His hometown. Though despised, He continued on in the mission for our salvation and forgiveness of sins all the way to the cross. As disciples continued to proclaim a message of repentance, build us up as Your disciples within Your church to proclaim and receive the forgiveness of sins won for us through His death and resurrection. Raise up pastors, missionaries, teachers, and others in a churchly vocation to be sent by You to proclaim Your message of Law and Gospel. Strengthen laity to live as Your church each day among our neighbors, pointing to Your light and Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate Father, we face daily the trials of this world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh. Often a "thorn in the flesh" is a barrier to our faith and trust in You. Remind us Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in weakness. For those who are weak in body, mind, and spirit, grant Your continued presence. Heal according to Your will, and use us as Your church to encourage, support, and reflect Your grace to all who are in need, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P Sustaining Father, You gather us together as Your people to hear Your Word and to receive Your means of grace. As Your church, strengthen our fellowship as we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Fed, nourished, and strengthened in faith, enable us to faithfully uphold Your calling to us as we are sent by You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

*Additional petitions may be added.*

- P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

### SACRAMENT

#### The Words of Our Lord

#### Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C **Amen.**

#### Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

- C **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.**

## **Distribution Hymns**

### **Distribution Hymn LSB 827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling**

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
    “Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—  
    Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
    Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
    “Here am I, send me, send me”?
  
- 2 Some take up His task in morning,  
    To their Lord responding soon;  
Some are called in heat of midday,  
    Others late in afternoon;  
Even as the sun is setting,  
    Some are sent into the fields,  
There to gather in the bounty  
    That God’s Word so richly yields.
  
- 3 For as rain and snow from heaven  
    Water seeds in dusty soil,  
Causing them to bud and flower,  
    Giving bread to those who toil;  
So the Lord sends forth His promise,  
    Words of life and joy and peace—  
Never void to Him returning,  
    Bearing fruit with great increase.
  
- 4 Harken to the Lord whose coming  
    Marks the time when grace shall end,  
When with His angelic reapers  
    He in glory shall descend.  
Soon the night, the final harvest;  
    Soon the time for work shall cease.  
Then the souls His grace has garnered  
    Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Text (st. 1): Daniel March, 1816–1909, alt.; (sts. 2–4): Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Text (st. 1): Public domain

Text (sts. 2–4): © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn

License no. 110003958

## Distribution Hymn LSB 589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

- 1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!
  
- 2 Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.
  
- 3 Lord, Your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unfailing!
  
- 4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638-83; (sts. 1-3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860-1942, alt.; (st. 4):  
tr. Christian Worship, 1993  
Text: Public domain

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.  
C **His steadfast love endures forever.**

P As we have been called, gathered, and enlightened through Your Spirit as Your church, You have sustained and nourished us that we may live as Your people in this present life and at Your time rejoice in life everlasting. Your grace is sufficient and Your forgiveness is assured.

C **Strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

P Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

C **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn LSB 728 How Firm a Foundation**

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

4 “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

5 “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

Text: A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.  
Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 3.  
Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

The Lutheran Confessions quotation is from *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, second edition © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Small Catechism quotations are from *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* © 1986, 2017 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

## Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.