

July 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Christ's Lutheran Church

700 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

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.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

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.

Gathering Song

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ELW # 533



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
 let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

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.

Hymn of Praise
(verses 1 and 4)

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast
ELW # 516



- 1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

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

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 55.

¹⁰ 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,
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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

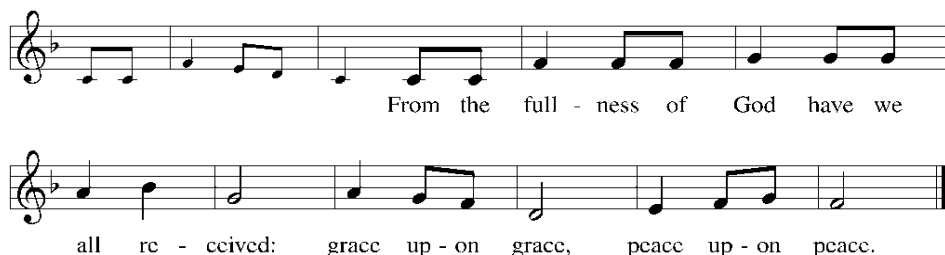
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ 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.

The congregation will sing the following response:



¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.

³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ 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.

Response

⁵ 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.

⁶ You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ 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.

Response

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Response

A reading from Romans, chapter 8.

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

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ 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 stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation (sing twice)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
ELW # 172



Music: Caribbean traditional

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ 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. 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 brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, 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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on 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 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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.

Please be seated.

The Children's Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

A Moment of Prayer

Cradling Children in His Arm
ELW # 444

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Cra - dling chil - dren in his arm, Je - sus gave his bless - ing.' The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'To our babes a wel - come warm he is yet ad - dress - ing.' The third staff has lyrics: 'Take them, Lord, give life a - new in the liv - ing wa - ters!' The fourth staff concludes the piece with lyrics: 'Keep them al - ways near to you as your sons and daugh - ters!' The score ends with a double bar line.

Cra - dling chil - dren in his arm, Je - sus gave his bless - ing.

To our babes a wel - come warm he is yet ad - dress - ing.

Take them, Lord, give life a - new in the liv - ing wa - ters!

Keep them al - ways near to you as your sons and daugh - ters!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Johannes H. V. Knudsen, 1902–1982
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547
Text © 1976 Johannes H. V. Knudsen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

For the Fruit of All Creation ELW # 679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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Apostles' Creed

Together let us confess our common faith in the words of the
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.

Please be seated.

We now invite Deacon Ali Clark from KenCrest to address the congregation.

Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world.
Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources. We pray especially for Gary, Marie, Barry, Nancy, Darleen, Marge, Carolee, Jake, Samira, Ziad, the Bach family and the Piantieri family. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Today's Music: Bob's solo this morning is a famous gospel song by American singer Andrae' Crouch. He wrote both the music and lyrics in 1971 in just 10 minutes. One morning, he woke up singing the phrase "to God by the glory." He then went to his piano and wrote the track. The song focuses on showing deep thankfulness to God for saving and helping humanity.

Musical Offering

"My Tribute"

Crouch

Soloist: Robert Bortz

Accompanist: Betsy Selinger

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

Give Thanks TFF # 292

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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Offering Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious God, you have been faithful to our ancestors, bringing us throughout time to this very day

Beyond our divisions, you remind us that we are all kindred in your eyes

We are better together.

You have given us all we need to trust in your abundance, to live generous lives, and recognize that your good work is done best in communion with you and one another

We are better together.

And so in service to our neighbor, in love for all creation, and in proclamation of your good news for all:

We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered, help us to remember all you have done, give us vision for all we can do, honest commitment to the call you've placed before us, and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency Let us be your people, and serve the world in love as you first loved us. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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



A - men, a - men, a - - men.



WORLD and MUSIC: Assoc. PD

Prepared by www.DigitalSongsAndHymns.com

The Sending Song

Sent Forth by God's Blessing
ELW # 547

Please see the next page for the hymn.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing to God ev-er-liv-ing,

the peo-ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face—

The sup-per is end-ed. Oh, now be ex-tend-ed
our faith ev-er shar-ing, in love ev-er car-ing,

the fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
em-brac-ing God's chil-dren, the whole hu-man race.

The seed of Christ's teach-ing, re-cep-tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach-ing, shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
lead us; u-nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in-cite us, your love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing with praise and thanks-giv-ing

to work for your king-dom and an-swer your call.
give hon-or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed for longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long-term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Captain Jake Arentzen, USAF (friend of Wes Craig)
Samira Awad (friend of Melody Maurer)
Ziad Awad (friend of Melody Maurer)
Bach Family
Carolee Herzberg (friend of Karen Greilich)
Marge Holmes
Darleen Pappas (friend of Bob Kelly)
Nancy Renner
Barry Spindler (Robin & Glenn Griffin's brother-in-law)
Marie Wilson (member of 60 Plus)
Gary Woodruff (friend of Pastor Kaegler)

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Charlie Piantieri who died on July 3. May his loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

**The flowers on the altar today have been shared with
us from the garden of the Menard Family!**

Online Giving

To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.



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Christ's Lutheran Church
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Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor
Director of Music	Ken Selinger
Piano Accompaniment	Betsy Selinger
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer
Preschool Director	Sally Mead
Sexton	Pete Carr

Assisting Minister	Jenna Balaicuis
Soundboard	Diane Polis, Jon Rasmussen, John Frantz
Livestream	Rick Daniels, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)	Tim & Deb Hilbert
Closer	Sue Frantz
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Wes Craig

Upcoming Altar Guild: July 19	Sue Frantz
Upcoming Altar Flowers: July 19	TBD

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online Coffee Hour (narthex) Lower Elem. Craft Corner (200)
Monday	9:30 am 10:00 am – 6:00 pm	Monday Morning Men PBJ Collection (chapel)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am 7:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel) Council Meeting (200)
Wednesday	10:00 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study (200) Middle/HS boardgames (204)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)



SUMMER

July events



12

SUN. JULY

NEW TIME!

10:30 AM – 12 PM

Lower Elementary Craft Corner (K-3rd)



15

WED. JULY

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Middle and High School Boardgames



19

SUN. JULY

NEW TIME!

10:30 AM – 12 PM

Poppin' Playground Party (baby-K)

1 PM – 2 PM

Upper Elementary Youth Group (2nd-5th)



26

SUN. JULY

9:30 AM

Family Choir Sings in Worship

Questions? Contact Becca at:
director-spiritualform@christs-oreland.org

Reconciling in Christ

Summer Educational Series



June
Sunday the 28th
10:30 am

LGBTQ+ History
with Kathryn Steen

July
Sunday 19th
1 pm

LGBTQ+ Representation and the Bible
with Rev. Daniel Eisenberg

August
Sunday the 23rd
10:30 am

LGBTQ+ Awkward Questions
with Becca Shelor



Summer Altar Flowers

Share your beautiful blooms or plants from home with our congregation.

Sundays in July, August and the first Sunday in September.

Sign up in the Narthex!

