

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION (10:00) (Please see next page to prepare.)

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“Holy, Holy, Holy” vs. 1-2	#507
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Words of Institution and Pax Domini	p218
Agnus Dei	p198

PREPARATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine him/herself on the basis of these points of faith:

- I believe that:
- + I am a sinner in need of God’s forgiveness.
 - + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
 - + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
 - + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
 - + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
 - + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.

Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord’s Supper. If you are visiting us for the first time, or have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service.

The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with special needs. Gluten-free wafers are also available on the small table as you approach the railing.

Hymns during Distribution — Please join in singing:	
• “Your Table I Approach”	#628
• Special Music	
• “Rock of Ages”	#761
“O Lord, We Praise Thee” v. 1	#617
Post-Communion Collect	p218

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN — “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” #794

THE POSTLUDE

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***WELCOME!** Why must we endure the questions, the challenges, and the things that are not as they should be? The disciples long ago wondered about this too. Why are there weeds in God’s field, and what can be done about it? The seed was good, but God has enemies, and so do you. It is not given to us to resolve this until the Lord’s time, when He will separate the weeds from the wheat. It is enough for us to know that God knows the hearts of people and that this tension will not endure. When Jesus comes in His glory, the angels will separate out of His kingdom all who do not belong. Then the righteous shall shine like the sun, so take heart, people of God.*

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THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELL AND PASTORAL GREETING

✠ THE PREPARATION ✠

THE OPENING HYMN – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” #575

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (taken from D.S. V—p213)

- 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. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: **Who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*
- P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
C: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*
- 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.**
- P: Lord, have mercy upon us.
C: **Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS—“All Glory Be to God on High” #947

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: 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.
All: Amen.

✂ THE WORD ✂

THE FIRST READING — Isaiah 44:6-8, ESV Pew Bibles p 718

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and now we—are redeemed.

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. 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. 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.”
L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING — Romans 8:18-27, ESV Pew Bibles p 1123

For St. Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to pray as God’s children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from the bondage to death and decay.

[St. Paul wrote:] So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For 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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and 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.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 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. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 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.

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE OF DOXOLOGY– “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #805

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING — Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, ESV Pew Bibles p 973

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. 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?’ 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?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. 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.”’” [...]

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.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

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

THE APOSTLES’ CREED p192

THE SERMON HYMN –“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling” vs. 1-3 #827

THE SERMON

✂ THE RESPONSE ✂

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE –“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling” v. 4 #827

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS- “In Holy Conversation” #772

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER (8:00)