

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026



but God has been making the seed grow.

Plant a seed by hand and you're holding something that looks small, dry, and essentially dead. But put that seed in soil and it splits open, pushes up, reaches for the sun — seemingly all on its own. It's a wonder that life can come from what was dead. But not every planted seed grows.

The Bible describes Christians as people planted by the Word. So why does faith grow in one person and not another?

The answer isn't in the soil. It's in the Word. God calls people to faith through the gospel, and his Word does what he sends it to do. Faith is God's work from start to finish. When it grows, he gets the credit, because God has made it grow through his Word.

Hymn #633

Speak, O Lord

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos-es for your glo - ry.
nev - er fail, let their truth pre-vail o - ver un - be-lief.
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
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In the name of the Father and + of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

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Glory Be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6–11

As sinful creatures, we cannot summon God when it suits us. Instead, he reaches us through his Word—and his Word never fails us.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65B

Every Heart Its Tribute Pays

God provides everything we need—forgiveness for the soul and food from the earth—so that we may thankfully return to him the fruit he desires.



1 Ev - 'ry heart its trib - ute pays, ev - 'ry tongue its
2 Ev - er while his deeds en - dure our sal - va - tion
3 Year by year, the sea - sons' round sees the land with



song of praise; sin and sor - row, guilt and care, brought to
stands se - cure; he whose fin - gers spun the earth, gave the
bless - ing crowned, where ca - ressed by sun and rain bar - ren



him who an - swers prayer; there by grace may hu - man - kind
seas and moun - tains birth, tamed the o - cean, formed the land,
earth gives life a - gain; sun - lit val - leys burn with gold,



full and free for - give - ness find; called and cho - sen,
spread the skies with might - y hand: far - off shores re -
na - ture smiles on field and fold, gifts of God in



loved and blest, in his pres - ence be at rest.
vere his name, day and night his pow'r pro - claim.
plen - ty poured: all things liv - ing, praise the Lord!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith Tune: George J. Elvey Text: © 1984, Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712325

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Isaiah 55:11

Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Refrain

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Jesus pictures ministry as a planter scattering seed.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #644

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous 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, abr., alt. Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615

Sermon

Isaiah 55:6-11

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at subsplash.com/u/-MV95PX/give.

Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.



Offering Prayer

LORD Almighty, you are the creator and giver of all that is good. We thank you for all treasures earthly and heavenly that you have given us. Keep us from idolizing what cannot save. Use our stewardship of your gifts as a testimony that we place our trust in you and that we share your desire for the salvation of all.

Amen.

Hymn #537

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Christ Jesus is the fullness of God's Word in the flesh. Each stanza of this hymn names the Word's work that is still accomplished today.



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our
4 Word that speaks your Fa - ther's love, one with him be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
mor - tal blind - ness; deaf we are: our heal - er be;
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
loose our tongues to tell your kind - ness. Be our Word in
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
pit - y spo - ken, heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010 Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.
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Please stand

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.

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #925

On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing, Lord, be -
 2 To you our wants are known; from you are all our
 3 O grant that each of us now met be - fore you

stow; the pow'r is yours a - lone to make it
 pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own and par - don
 here may meet to - geth - er thus when you and

spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
 what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -
 yours ap - pear and fol - low you to heav'n, our

raise and you a - lone shall have the praise!
 ceive and to your Word a bless - ing give.
 home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, adapt., alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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This week at Living Hope

Today

10am	Refreshments
10:15am	Family Bible Lesson: <i>The Means of Grace</i>

Monday

7pm	BPMEC Meeting <i>Microsoft Teams</i>
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Tuesday

1:30pm	Assisted-living Service at Brandermill Woods
7pm	Church Council meeting

Next Sunday

9am	Assisted-living Services <i>Livestreamed</i>
9am	Worship w/ Communion
10am	Refreshments
10:15am	Family Bible Lesson: <i>Law & Gospel</i>

Family Bible Lesson

Today: *God Comes to Us*. Every religion tells you to climb. Christianity starts with the God who needs nothing from you, come down for you.

Next week: *Law & Gospel*. All of Scripture speaks two words: the Law that kills and the Gospel that makes alive. One drives us to Christ. The other delivers him. No distinction in Scripture matters more.

This summer's education series will focus on the Christian's daily use of the Means of Grace. The family-oriented study will continue throughout the summer and begins 15 minutes after worship concludes.

Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Sarah Seifert
Morris Hayes

Ushers

Rob Neeley & Howard Lewis
Josh Clark & Greg Six

Acolyte

Jaxson Saur
Ella Lacey

Church Cleaning

Clarke/Austin Family
Rathje Family

After-worship Snacks

still needed
still needed

Livestream

Seifert Family
Lacey Family

Offering Caretakers

Beverly Henley & Barbara Byrd
Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes

Mowing

John Pahl
John Pahl

Assisted-living Leader

Phil Nawrocki
Livestreamed

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



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LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.

- 1 Peter 1:3

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