

THE OFFERING

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #536 — *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



8th Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 19, 2026

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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.**

HYMN #689 — *Praise and Thanksgiving*

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING — *Isaiah 44:6-8*

Thus says the Lord, the Sovereign of Israel, and Israel's 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 them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there, besides me, any other deity? There is no other rock; I know not one.

SECOND READING — *Romans 8:12-25*

So then, brothers and sisters, 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 children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with Christ so that we may also be glorified with Christ.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now, hope that is seen is not hope. For whom hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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

GOSPEL — *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The dominion of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” Jesus answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son-of-Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of God's dominion; the weeds are the children 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 collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son-of-Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his dominion all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the dominion of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #693 — *Come, Ye Thankful People. Come*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace, **hear our prayer.** ... In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**