

**Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**First Reading - Isaiah 55:10-13**

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,  
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.

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.  
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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 65: 1-13** (*read responsively*)

Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed,

**O you who answer prayer!**

**To you all flesh shall come.**

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,

you forgive our transgressions.

**Happy are those whom you choose and bring near**

**to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,**

**your holy temple.**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,

O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth

and of the farthest seas.

**By your strength you established the mountains;**

**you are girded with might.**

You silence the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves,

the tumult of the peoples.

**Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;**

**you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it;

you greatly enrich it;

the river of God is full of water;

you provide the people with grain,

for so you have prepared it.

**You water its furrows abundantly,**

**settling its ridges,**

**softening it with showers,**

**and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with your bounty;

your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

The pastures of the wilderness overflow;

the hills gird themselves with joy;

**the meadows clothe themselves with flocks;**

**the valleys deck themselves with grain;**

**they shout and sing together for joy.**

## **Second Reading - Romans 8:1-11** *(not printed)*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 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. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 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. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 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. 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. 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.**

| <b>THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULED EVENTS</b> |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>M 7/13</b>                       | 12:30 Mahjong                                                |
| <b>T 7/14</b>                       | 10:00 am Endowment<br>2:00 pm Mt. Carmel                     |
| <b>W 7/15</b>                       | 9:00 am Finance<br>5:00 pm <b>Red, White, and Blue Party</b> |
| <b>H 7/16</b>                       | 9:30 am World Religion Discussion                            |
| <b>F 7/17</b>                       | 9:00 am Council                                              |
| <b>S 7/18</b>                       | 4:30 pm Hospitality<br>5:00 pm Worship                       |
| <b>S 7/19</b>                       | 8:30 am Hospitality<br>9:00 am Worship                       |

- **Happy Anniversary to Norm & Sandy Knoke**
- **Happy Birthday to Sharon Leonard & Sheila Baldwin**
- **World Religion discussion group, Thursday, July 16th at 9:30 am**
- **Plan to join us for YOUTH GROUP, 5 pm every Wednesday night**
- **The Red, White, and Blue party is on Wednesday July 15th**
- **Keep e-blast submissions brief & submit by 10 am on Friday**

***Our prayer list is e-mailed to members every Friday. If you need a printed copy of this list, please contact the office.***

Attendance last week: 18 Saturday 40 Sunday

Hymns: 533, 681, 550

Choir Anthem: ELW 508, As Rain From the Clouds