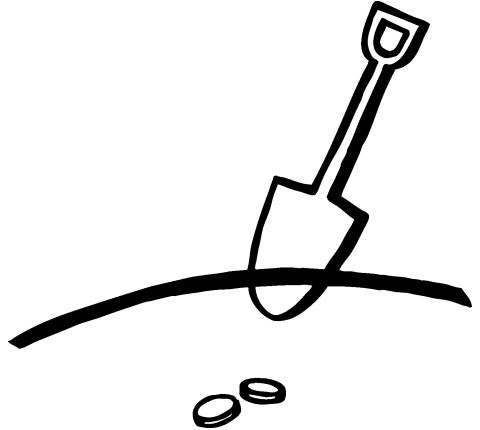




Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 26, 2026

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Compassionate God,

**C: 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.**

L: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

## *Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping*



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep - ing; our on - ly  
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far - off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is  
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir-it



sleep-ing while our brief lives are bound in death.  
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor-rows swal-low and of - fers  
The Spir - it sings though we are shak-en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and  
shared our heart-felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.  
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

## GREETING

**L:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## KYRIE

ELW p. 184 Setting 8

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'-ry day.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L:** Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

# WORD

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

## FIRST READING

**1 Kings 3:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or

counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?” <sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

L: Word of God, Word of Life:

**C: Thanks, be to God.**

# **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p. 188 Setting 8

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

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

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

**L:** The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” <sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. <sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

**L:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Reverend Bethany Ketchem

## SONG OF THE DAY

*Be Thou My Vision, ELW 793*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**L:** God of grace,

**C:** Hear our prayer.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** 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.

## PEACE

**L:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

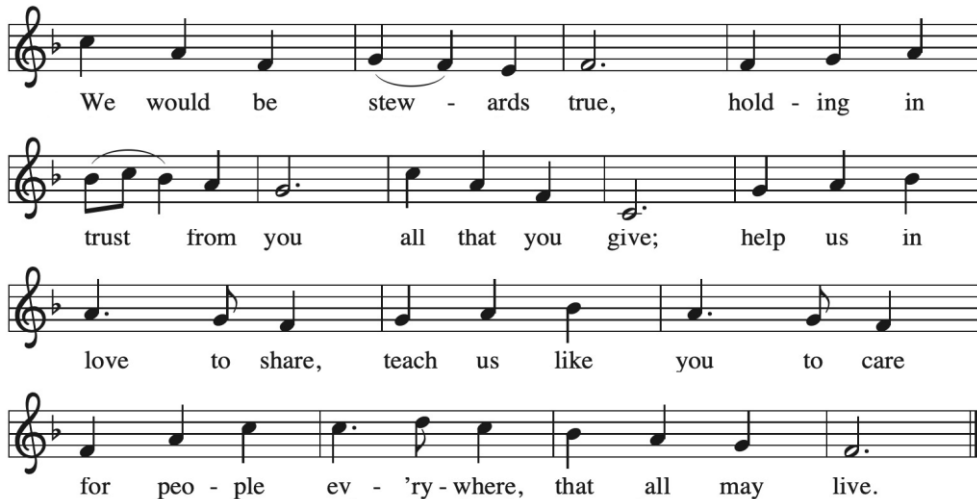
**C:** And also with you.

## OFFERING

*Psalm 23, G. Young arr. D Wagner  
Jeremy Mattson, Piano*

## OFFERING RESPONSE

*God of the Fertile Fields, Georgia Harkness*



We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
love to share, teach us like you to care  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.

## OFFERING PRAYER

**L:** Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## BLESSING

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

**C. Amen**

## SENDING SONG

*On What Has Now Been Sown, ELW 550*



1 On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

## DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**National Night Out is a go!** All Churches Potluck August 4, from 5-8 pm. ORLC Parking Lot. All are welcome. Bring a friend and a dish to share. If you'd be willing to help with it, please contact Deb Spencer at [djspencer12@yahoo.com](mailto:djspencer12@yahoo.com). Volunteers still needed - let's meet July 28 at 6pm.

**Bible Study** is every Wednesday at 9:30-10:30 at ORLC. Come join us!

### **Prayers & Praises of the People:**

- Prayers for Sharon Peterson as she continues to recover.
- Prayers for Kathi Kirchoff: prayers for her chemotherapy treatments.
- Prayers for healing for Judy Koza.

### **Lutheran Night With the Twins**

**Tuesday, Aug. 11 - 6:40 p.m. | Target Field, Minneapolis**

Join other Lutherans from all over the Twin Cities and beyond for a night at the baseball game as the Twins take on the Baltimore Orioles! It's a great event for congregations, youth groups and more. There are a variety of seating options and pricing, ranging from upper level (\$16) to club level (\$51) and more. For tickets, contact Ryan Thomson at 612-659-3582 or [ryanthomson@twins.com](mailto:ryanthomson@twins.com).

Come early to join other Lutheran voices in singing The Star-Spangled Banner at the start of the game! You will need to arrive at the field by 5:20 p.m. and meet the group outside **the** stadium. Watch the video below for instructions on participating in the choir.

#### **Participants in Today's Service**

|                                        |                      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Pastor</b>                          | Rev. Bethany Ketchem |
| <b>Worship &amp; Music Director</b>    | Jeremy Mattson       |
| <b>Director of Choir and Handbells</b> | Alex Carlson         |
| <b>Soundboard &amp; Livestream</b>     | Beth Renfors         |
| <b>Lector</b>                          | Dianne Derks         |

#### **Lessons for next August, July 2:**

Isaiah 55:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

**Next week's lector:** Lana Larsen



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

1390 Larpenteur Avenue East, Saint Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-772-2445 | Email: [office@orlcmn.org](mailto:office@orlcmn.org)

Prayer Requests: [prayers@orlcmn.org](mailto:prayers@orlcmn.org)

Giving: [Offerings@orlcmn.org](mailto:Offerings@orlcmn.org) or text 844-871-2328