

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.
Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's
Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor*

WELCOME

We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.

July 12, 2026
7th Sunday After Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“ Carrickfergus ”

**** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

✠ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

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.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“ For the Fruit of All Creation ”

No. 679

**** 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.

** KYRIE

Refrain



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



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



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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

¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

PSALM: Psalm 65:1-13

We will read the Psalm responsively, starting with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

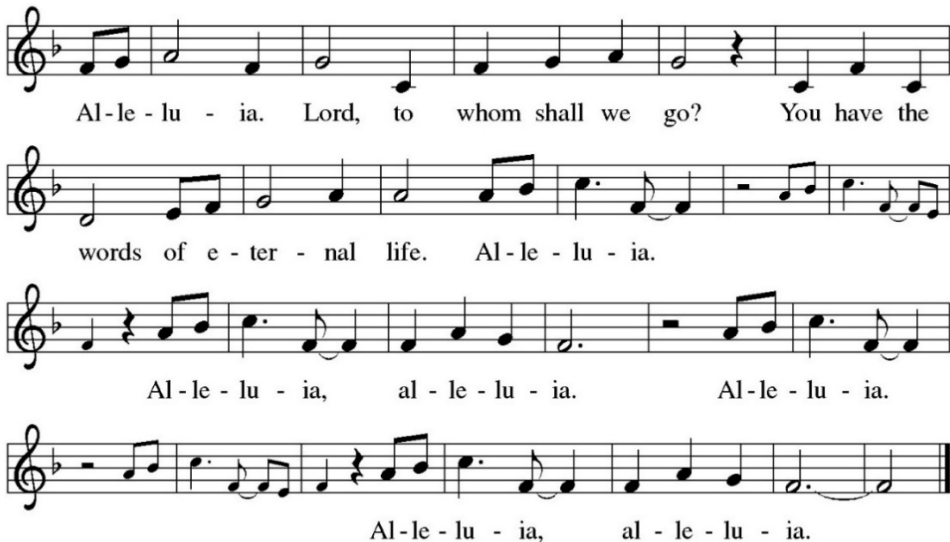
Refrain: Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

- ¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.
- ² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**
- ³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. R**
- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.
- ⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**
- ⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
- ⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. R**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 13:1-9, 18-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ 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. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!" ¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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.

SERMON

Reverend John Burk

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 512

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil "

**** APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Please be seated)*

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“ Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us ”

Flute Quartet

** OFFERTORY HYMN

“ Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ”

No. 184

** OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

** GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**** PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**** LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**** COMMUNION SONG**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the wine and bread at our Lord’s table. Grape Juice is in pre-poured glasses and gluten-free wafers are available on the tables as you come forward.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ”

No. 484


“ Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast ”

No. 516

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

**** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. 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.**

**** BLESSING**

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

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“ Sent Forth by God’s Blessing ”

No. 547

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart ”

St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,
we invite all people to grow in God's love.”

Church Calendar July 12, 2026 – July 19, 2026

Today - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

Tuesday - No Yoga at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday & Friday - **Office Closed** – Floors being waxed

Next Sunday - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nick Bennett
Lector:	Peggy Jamison
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Special Music:	Flute Quartet Larry Anderson, Debi Beachy, Miranda Cook, Eunae Rodeheaver
Recorder:	Stephanie Berger
Communion Clean-up:	Ellda Bennett & Kids
Flower Delivery:	Marta Turney
Safe Keeper:	Jana Brown
Ushers:	Paul Lewis, Capt. Liz Lewis, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey, Joann Kinzy

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at pastorcarrie@stmarksoakland.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



The Altar Flowers are given by Jeff & Janet Gregory,
in loving memory of Ada Maffett.

Prayer Requests



Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, Peter, Robert Hodges, Ava, Connie Leary, Emily, Marie, Joyce Chaney, Debbie, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Norma, Joe, Kimmie, Abe, Angie, Fred Meyer, Tom Bingham, Senta Heinrich, Mary, Eric, Jeff Gilbert, Marylynn, Michael, Sally, George, David, Roger, Clint, C.J. Bennett, Micah Teter, John Arnold, Ray, Laura and her unborn child, Katie LeDuc, Diane LeDuc, Jean, Bil McGahn, Sara, Debra Lohman, Annie Wiles, Danny, Ada Viattero, Debra DeWitt

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Family of Becky Preston, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Erina, Miss Ann Collins, Shania, Joey Welch & his family, Mr. Kittle, Eli M., Athena, Kella & Baby, Garrett, Amy Bacha, Gary Wotherspoon and his family

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 18

Booth at the Fairgrounds Noon to 8p

Tuesday, July 21

Summer Book Group

Saturday, July 25

Canning Workshop – Canning Green Beans

Announcements

Summer Book Group

Tuesday, July 21

For our next gathering, we'll explore Chapter 3, "Wow," from Anne Lamott's *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. In this chapter, Lamott reminds us that "wow" is the prayer of awe, wonder, and amazement. It is the prayer we offer when we recognize beauty, experience unexpected joy, or catch a glimpse of God's presence in the ordinary moments of life. Together we'll explore what it means to cultivate wonder—even in the midst of busy, imperfect lives—and how learning to say "wow" can deepen our faith and draw us closer to God. All are welcome as we gather for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. Please bring a chair. If you want to bring a light snack / hors d'oeuvre to share, that would be wonderful (but certainly optional).

Pastor Carrie will be on Vacation July 9-18

During this time, Deacon Mary Sanders will be available for pastoral emergencies. If a pastoral emergency arises, please contact Ellda in the church office during office hours. After hours, you may reach Ellda by cell phone or contact Pastor Carrie by phone or email. We will ensure that Deacon Mary is notified and connected with you as needed.

Ellda Cell: 304-698-5295

Pastor Carrie Cell: 443-974-1738

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. Here are a few things to help you feel comfortable in our space and more fully participate in worship. If you have questions at any time, our ushers will be happy to help.

Restrooms

- A first-floor restroom is available. Facing the pulpit, use the door to the left, enter the church office, and the restroom is located on the right.
- Restrooms and water fountains are also available downstairs. From the back of the sanctuary (narthex), take the steps downstairs, turn right into Fellowship Hall, restrooms are on the right and the water fountain is on the left.

Accessibility & Comfort

- Our bulletins contain the order of worship so you can easily follow along. You are invited to participate in the liturgy in areas indicated in bold and hymns can be found in the red hymnal.
- If standing during worship is uncomfortable, please feel free to remain seated.
- Hearing assistance devices and large-print bulletins are available—please ask an usher.

Visitors

- If you are visiting, we invite you to sign the guest registry located on the stand near the front doors or fill out a visitor envelope found in the pew rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate.
- If you or someone you know is in need of an extra prayer, please fill out a card in the pew back in front of you, and an usher will be by during the prelude to collect it.

Children

- Children's worship bags are available in the narthex. You are welcome to pick one up for your child(ren).

Electronics

- Please silence or turn off cell phones and electronic devices so that all may focus on worship.

Holy Communion

- If Holy Communion is celebrated today, please know that all are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available on the side tables and wine will be poured from the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

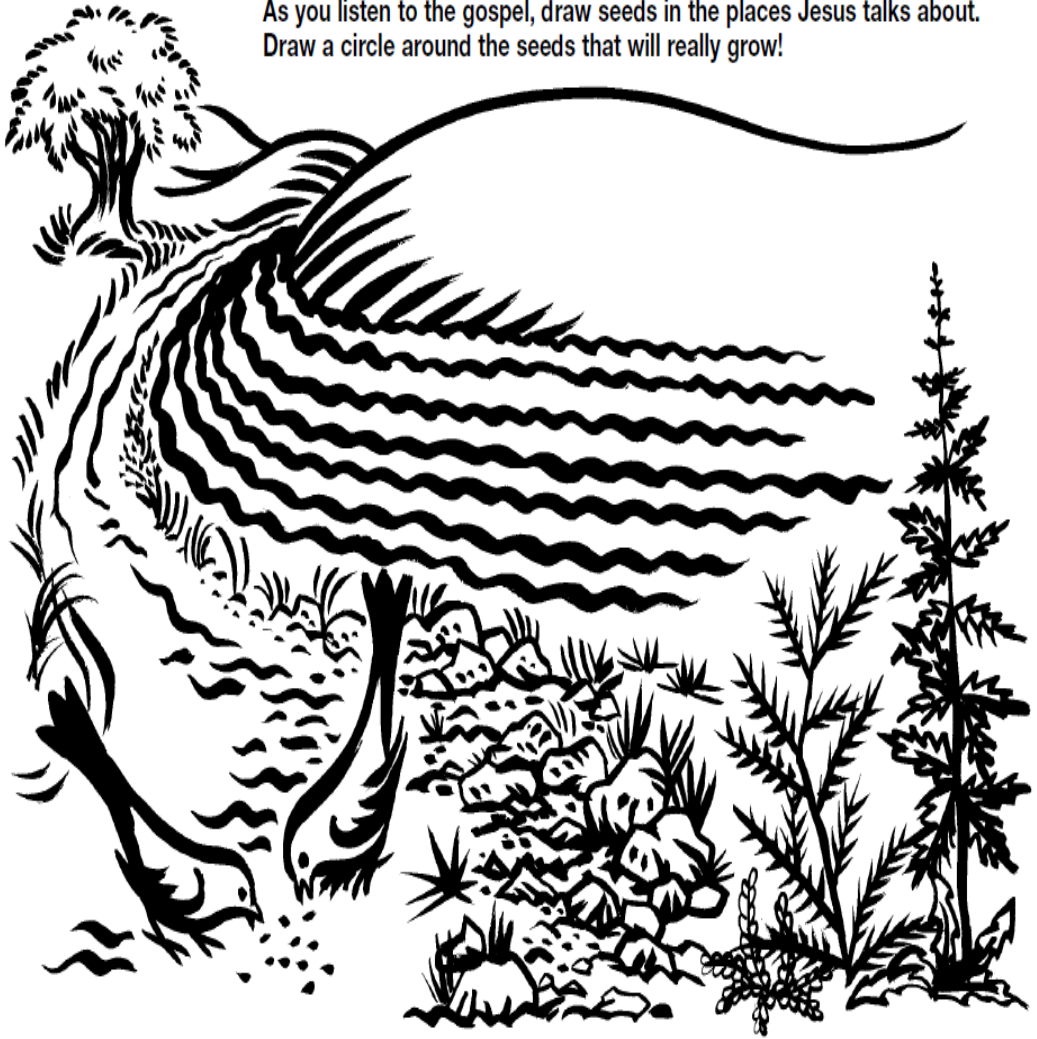
Thank you for worshiping with us today—we are glad you are here.

Finding good soil

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus told a story about seeds growing into grain.

As you listen to the gospel, draw seeds in the places Jesus talks about.
Draw a circle around the seeds that will really grow!



Where can you plant the seeds of God's love? What do they need to grow?



July 12, 2026, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Holy God, you scatter your word far and wide. Make our hearts fertile ground to receive it, grow it, and share its fruits with all who need to hear it, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"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." (Matt. 13:23)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

God is a generous sower. God makes it easy for us to be good soil. Remain receptive, and God's word takes hold.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What does it mean to be “good soil”? Is it something you can do for yourself or something you must rely on God to do? How does the distinction shape how you prepare yourself to receive God’s word?
- For the littles: What is your favorite plant or flower?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God prepare your heart to receive God’s word. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God’s word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Do your grocery shopping this week at a co-op. Talk to the owner or a worker about where the food comes from. Consider how consuming food grown locally can support your community and contribute toward better health.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 142; Micah 1:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Tuesday, Psalm 142; Jeremiah 49:7-11; Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Wednesday, Psalm 142; Obadiah 15-21; Matthew 13:10-17

Thursday, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-9

Friday, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Ezekiel 39:21-29; Hebrews 6:13-20

Saturday, Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Exodus 14:9-25; Matthew 7:15-20