

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

TEMPLE TALK

Thrivant Grants

Jane Goetz

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In baptism, we were buried with Christ that we might die to sin and walk in newness of life. Therefore, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

God of the living, we confess that we have not lived as the risen body of Christ in the world. We have failed to abide in your love, and have not loved one another as you love us. Strengthen us with your Spirit, that we may draw our life from you, the vine, and bear fruits of your grace and mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our ✝ risen Lord, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL

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 ELEISON

Blue Book, Page 2

SONG OF PRAISE

Blue Book, Page 3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

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

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

A reading from Isaiah.

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 RESPONSE

Psalms 65: 1-13

Please read the psalm responsively.

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.

Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

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.

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.

You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.

You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

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.

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.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

A reading from Romans.

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 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, 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. 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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

The 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.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil "

ELW 512

We respond to the promises of God in song.

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(from 'Dakota Road: Remembering the Promise' edition)*

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us.

Please rise...let us proclaim our statement of faith.

We believe God is our creator and has promised to love us always. We believe Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, is God's promise living among us. He experienced all the pain and joy and challenges of human life. God's forgiving love was revealed to us when Jesus suffered death on the cross. He came back to new life and has promised us new life in unity with God. We believe the Holy Spirit is God's promise touching our spirits and animating our lives, guiding us - even through our most difficult moments. We believe God is among us in community. Mysterious, yet very real, God promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Blue Book, Page 6

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, sung response: God of grace, hear our prayer.

(Sung Response: "The Spirit intercedes for us...")

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Blue Book, Page 7

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

OFFERING PRAYER

In response to your promise of life, we offer our life. In response to your promise of love, we offer our love. In response to all of your promises, we offer our gifts. Amen.



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 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 in 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.*

Pour out your ✠ Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Albert Hay Malotte

Sung by Glenn Kuelto

© 1935 G. Schirmer, Inc., CCLI# 1534

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

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

RECESSIONAL

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte:

Ushers:

Lector: *Jane Goetz*

Communion Assistants: *Anne Lauterjung, Jane Goetz*

Altar Guild: *Debbie Guenther, Becky Glaser*

Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*

Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*

Altar Flowers: *In memory of Greg Matteson from Cheryl Matteson*

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte:

Ushers:

Lector: *Anne Lauterjung*

Communion Assistants:

Altar Guild: *Kari Castelli*

Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*

Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*

Altar Flowers: *In honor of Gary Grunstad from Vickie Grunstad and family*

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

July 12, 2026

- **A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship TODAY, July 12th**, to discuss and vote on a proposal to enter into a financing agreement with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to support the Education Building HVAC project, the Education Building roofing project, and any additional property improvement projects recommended by the Property Committee and approved by the Church Council. **A quorum of 50 voting members is required**, so your attendance is important. Please plan to remain after worship on July 12th for this important meeting as we discern together the best path forward for our congregation's facilities and ministry. Thank you for your participation and commitment to the life and future of our church.
- **Free Community Meal, today July 12th at Noon**, at Open Table United Church of Christ, 910 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL. The meal will consist of a Taco Bar with ground beef, refried beans, rice, toppings and dessert.
- **The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School is "River of Life."** In VBS, participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important "ports" during the week to hear Bible stories about water. They will also hear about communities working to restore watersheds, to protect rights to water and to ensure safe water for everyone. There will also be fun, with games and other activities to celebrate God's gift of water and remind us of our important calling as God's children to be good stewards of creation. **VBS will run July 13th through July 17, 2026** at 717 Chambers St., Ottawa. Please contact the office during business hours (9-2, Mon - Thurs) or send an email to tlcoffice@trinitylutheranottawa.com to sign up!
- Trinity Friends, here is **an opportunity to serve** and share some of God's love by **participating in the meal train for the Reinert family**. Please consider making a meal and delivering it to them. Please sign up using this link: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/0r6mm9>
-  Please join us in **supporting Youth Service Bureau's Operation Apple Tree**. Information will be available for choosing a child to sponsor in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you for giving to this back to school project for our local youth! **The last day to bring in your donated items is July 26th.**
- **Lutheran World Relief is soliciting donations** to help those in need due to the **Venezuela Earthquakes**. Please donate at www.lwr.org (click on banner for "Venezuela Earthquakes"). Thank you for delivering critically needed emergency aid.
- Per the **Growing Hope Globally** Newsletter:
"The Twin Rivers-Barrington Growing Project began in 2004 and a key leader for the project was Kevin Nelson, who passed away in 2023. In honor of Kevin's contributions and influence, the Growing Project named their Sweet Corn Patch after him. Every summer, farmers near Ottawa share sweet corn with Barrington United Methodist Church for a free-will donation. It's one of many fundraisers of this rural-urban partnership that has been an instrumental part of their success. Kevin is a part of that legacy, along with many other faithful farmers and friends."

Per Mission Outreach, the sweet corn currently growing this year is doing well and starting to tassel. **Sweet corn picking is anticipated to be the first Saturday in August.** Please contact Mission Outreach to volunteer (and to have some fun!).

- The next **Trinity Lutheran Blood Drive** is happening **Wednesday, July 22nd, 12pm to 5pm**. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Contact Carol Wahlstrom for more information, carolwahlstrom@gmail.com , and to volunteer.
- **Bible study will be suspended through July**, resuming at 1pm on Wednesday, August 5th in the Education Building Community Room.
- **Please support Mission's 2026 Growing Project**. The funds raised will help people (mostly women) increase their food production in Guatemala's Western Highlands. **Our goal is to raise \$25,000** to help. We're planning a number of activities to inform about the project and raise funds. All help is welcome! Last year's project raised almost \$29,000! Thank you for all of your support!
- Reminder that there are 2 large print binders available for use on the tables by each entrance in the Sanctuary.
- **PRAYER REQUESTS:**
 . Please keep Sue Williamson and family in your prayers.
- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**
 - June Income = \$20,344.94 (Income YTD = \$122,302.32)
 - June Expense = \$18,913.47 (Expense YTD = \$121,474.56)
 - Income Less Expense = \$1431.47 (Income Less Expense YTD = \$827.76)
- **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**
 - **Monday (7/13):**
 - 9a Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
 - 6p Camp TLC "River of Life"
 - **Tuesday (7/14):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 6p Camp TLC "River of Life"
 - 7p Finance Committee (Board Room)
 - **Wednesday (7/15)**
 - No Bible Study for the Month of July*
 - 6p Camp TLC "River of Life"
 - **Thursday (7/16):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 6p Camp TLC "River of Life"
 - 7p Church Council
 - **Friday (7/17):**
 - 7a Sunrise Rotary
 - **Saturday (7/18):**
 - Nelson Mandela International Day!*
 - **Sunday (7/19):**
 - 10a Holy Communion