

July 11 - 12, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Readings

First Reading

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.

(pause)

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

A Reading from Romans

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do:
by sending God's own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh
and to deal with sin, God 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.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
Such great crowds gathered around Jesus
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!”

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.”

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

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.