

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 12, 2026 – The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost  
8:30 Bulletin

## LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The Season after Pentecost is not actually a liturgical season with a common focus, rather, it is just the weeks between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This period is often referred to as “Ordinary Time” and the liturgical color is **green**. These are the ordinary days in which we live our Christian faith in the regular routine of daily life. This seems simple enough, but the way the Sundays are counted on the calendar gets a bit confusing. It begins with the First Sunday after Pentecost and then counts sequentially until the 24th Sunday after Pentecost which is Christ the King, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If it stopped here that would be clear, but each Sunday during this time is also given another title: Proper 7-29 where the numbers do not coincide with the numbered Sundays after Pentecost. This proper numbering system is based on the moveable date of Easter. Honestly, there is no need to be concerned about this numbering framework, just focus on the ordinary daily life of Jesus as he goes about teaching, healing, and loving people as you live your ordinary life each day!

## OPENING HYMN: For The Beauty Of The Earth

*Please stand as you are able*



1. For the beau-ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,  
2. For the beau-ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
3. For Your-self, O Gift Di - vine To our world so free-ly giv'n,



1. For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:  
2. Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light:  
3. For that love from which will shine, Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



1-3. Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grate-ful praise.

## ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.  
AMEN.**

*Celebrant continues:*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

**GLORIA** *BCP p. 356*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Karen Davenport** † Next Sunday: **Cheryle Kahl***



**FIRST READING** Isaiah 28:5-9

*Please be seated*

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 65:1-14**

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the \**

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*  
**to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.**

<sup>2</sup>To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*  
**because of their transgressions.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, \*  
**but you will blot them out.**

- <sup>4</sup>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.**
- <sup>5</sup>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 seas that are far away.**
- <sup>6</sup>You make fast the mountains by your power;\*
- they are girded about with might.**
- <sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, \*
- the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor of the peoples.**
- <sup>8</sup>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.**
- <sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous;\*
- the river of God is full of water.**
- <sup>10</sup>You prepare the grain, \*
- for so you provide for the earth.**
- <sup>11</sup>You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;\*
- with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its  
increase.**
- <sup>12</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, \*
- and your paths overflow with plenty.**
- <sup>13</sup>May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*
- and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- <sup>14</sup>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 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, though the body is dead because of sin, 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 from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

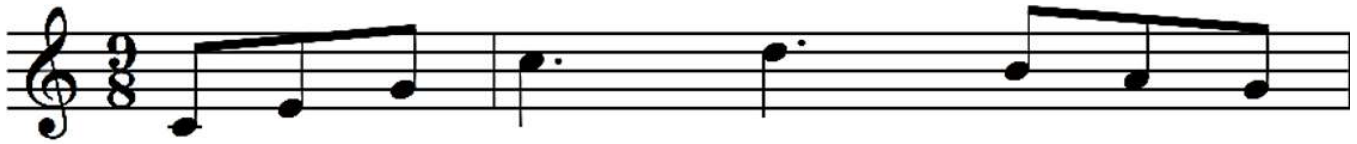
*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**



# GOSPEL HYMN: Seeds Of God's Garden

*Please stand as you are able*



1. Seeds of God's gar - den, ten - der - ly  
2. Seeds of God's gar - den, ti - ny and  
3. Seeds of God's gar - den, one day to



plant - ed, hope of cre - a - tion, bur - ied with  
frag - ile, hope of cre - a - tion, cool in the  
blos - som, hope of cre - a - tion, bear - ing good



care, through our be - hold - ing slow - ly un -  
earth, eas - ing our sad - ness, bring - ers of  
fruit, gen - tly re - pair - ing all our de -



fold - ing, tend - ed in pa - tience, nur - tured in prayer.  
glad - ness, bear - ers of good - ness show - ing our worth.  
spair - ing, faith reach - ing out - ward, love at the root.

## GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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 the 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. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“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 the world 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.”

*Celebrant* The Gospel of our Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Please be seated*

**NICENE CREED** *BCP p. 358*

*Please stand as you are able*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not**

**made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.**

## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

*The Leader and people pray responsively:*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world, especially Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, Sudan, Congo, and Venezuela;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Bonnie our diocesan Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of our Grace family, and for those on our prayer list. Are there others you would like to add?

Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
We will exalt you, O God our King;  
**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.  
**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**AMEN.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please stand as you are able*

*Celebrant* May God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant continues:*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God, Creator of heaven and earth.

And now we give you thanks because you prepared the way of your Son Jesus by the preaching of your servant John the Baptist, who proclaimed him as the Lamb of God, our Savior.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus our Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and

unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus our Christ. For it is by him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *BCP p. 364*

*Celebrant:*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold 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, for ever and ever. AMEN.**



## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People* Therefore let us keep the feast.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for all of us, the holy People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose for us, and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

## COMMUNION

*Please be seated*

### Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

*Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *BCP p. 366*

*Please stand as you are able*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says:*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**



## BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

## CLOSING HYMN: Peace Is Flowing Like A River



1, 5. Peace is flow-ing like a riv - er, flow - ing  
 2. Love is flow-ing like a riv - er, flow - ing  
 3. Heal - ing's flow-ing like a riv - er, flow - ing  
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -



1, 5. out of you and me. \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the  
 2. out of you and me. \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the  
 3. out of you and me. \_\_\_\_\_ Flow - ing out in - to the  
 4. lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



1, 5. des - ert, set - ting all the cap - tives free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. des - ert, set - ting all the cap - tives free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. des - ert, set - ting all the cap - tives free. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Our worship has now ended; go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



## **The Prayers of this Congregation**

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonaio, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Basse; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Gary Cynowa; Linda Hurley; Fran Merlo; Dave Sisson; Betty Gillis; David Schihl; Martha Houser; Stacy Wagenknecht; Matthew Smith; Robert Tuten; the Stotz family; Daniel Ranger.

*Do you know someone who can use our prayers?*

*Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.*

## CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please send all bulletin submissions to [bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org](mailto:bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org)*

### ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

### COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

### BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

### GARDENS OF GRACE

Please see the *Amazing Grace* newsletter (available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates on our church's gardens and ways you can help out. Need service hours? This is a great way to earn them!

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### For Those Left Hungry, Unhoused, and Unprotected

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**God** of abundance, whose **gifts are pure grace** and whose love never ends, **we pray** for those left hungry, unhoused, and unprotected **amid policy choices** in our federal government that have had **lasting impacts** on many people's ability to flourish. **We lift up the poor**, the sick, the elderly, immigrants, and all people who are trapped in unsafe conditions. As countless Americans struggle to see their future, whether due to reduced access to food assistance, loss of health coverage, or economic pressure, **we pray that their cries may reach the ears** of all who have the power to affect the lives of the vulnerable for the better. **We grieve** the effects of **inequitable federal policies** and pray for your intervention as further harms are still unfolding. **Strengthen advocacy workers**, mutual aid programs, and all those who are working for the rights of the poor and the oppressed in this nation. **Make us a people of radical love and hospitality**, that we may be the hands and feet of your Son Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.