

## Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey. I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules. I have been suffering so much—Lord, make me live again according to your promise. Please, Lord, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules! Though my life is constantly in danger, I won't forget your Instruction. Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won't stray from your precepts. Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy. I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.

## Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore. He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention. Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."



Sunday, July 12, 2026, 9:00 am

*\*Please stand if it is comfortable for you*

\*GATHERING SONG

*Down in the River to Pray*

WELCOME & GREETING

\*SONG

*Everlasting God*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word of the Lord is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

People: **We come seeking God's wisdom that we may walk in the way of life.**

Leader: Christ, the Sower, scatters the seeds of God's kingdom with generosity and grace.

People: **May God prepare our hearts to receive the Word with faith and joy.**

Leader: May the rocks of doubt be broken, the thorns of worry be cleared away, and the hard paths of indifference be softened by God's Spirit.

People: **May God make us good soil, ready to hear, understand, and bear fruit for life around us.**

Leader: May we hold fast to God's Word and worship God with glad and open hearts.

All: **Let us worship God, whose Word gives light, whose Spirit gives growth, and whose kin-dom bears fruit in all who receive it. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 119:105-112

\*CLOSING BLESSING

WITNESSING GOD'S LOVE TO OUR CHILDREN

*Children kindergarten and under may go to the Nursery. 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to the Chapel for Children's Church.*

\*CLOSING SONG

*Victory Chant*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Gracious God, you plant the seed of your Word generously, offering grace, truth, and new life to all. Yet we confess that our hearts are not always ready to receive what you give. At times we are like the hardened path, allowing distractions and stubbornness to keep your truth from taking root. At other times we are shallow soil, responding with enthusiasm but shrinking when faith requires perseverance. Too often the worries of this world, the pursuit of success, and the desire for comfort grow like thorns, crowding out the life you long to nurture within us. Forgive us, O God. Deepen our trust in you and help us remain faithful even when the journey is difficult. We long to be made into good soil as we make our silent confessions.

Participating in Worship:

Rev. Jenny Arneson, Pastor

Lisa Wink, Treasurer, Worship Assistant

Kim Kohler, Reader

RiversEdge Praise Team, Music

Jenna Woods, Special Music

SUNG RESPONSE

*Holy, Holy, Holy*  
#2007 Black Hymnal

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Song of Reconciliation*

**Summer Theme: S.O.S. - Summer of Service**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON

*Preparing the Soil for Service*

\*SONG

*We Sing of Your Glory*  
#2011 Black Hymnal

A TIME FOR PRAYER

OFFERING OUR LIVES AND OUR BLESSINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Song of Thanksgiving

*America the Beautiful*