

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 27, 2025  
10:30 AM

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
(CELEBRATED AT DELCO PARK)

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
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## INTRODUCTION

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

## OUR PERSISTENT, NEGOTIATING PRAYER LIFE

Today's readings incorporate several themes: negotiation, commands, persistence, and expectation. And surrounding all these themes is a bigger theme: boldness. Abraham is bold in speaking with God, so bold in fact that he not only negotiates with the Almighty, the Almighty willingly grants his request. Abraham had no fear in speaking in such a way to God, because he knew that God was listening and appreciating his concern. The disciples, too, speak with boldness. They don't ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, they tell him to teach them how to pray. Their imperative sets up a pattern of imperatives as Jesus teaches them the prayer that has been prayed unceasingly in the church catholic. These themes continue in boldness as persistence is encouraged, even to the extent of being able to ask, search, and knock, knowing that the Lord says we will receive what we ask for. And God wants to give to those who ask God. We are to ask in boldness, which comes from being "rooted and built up in [Christ]" (Col. 2:7). Strengthened by the Lord's supper, we are filled with God's Spirit to speak boldly and to be persistent in our prayers, and to be ready to receive the things for which we ask. The question becomes, then, what is it we want and need?

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*\*\* indicates to stand as you are able.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Judy Treadway*

### \*\* CONFESSION

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✚ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

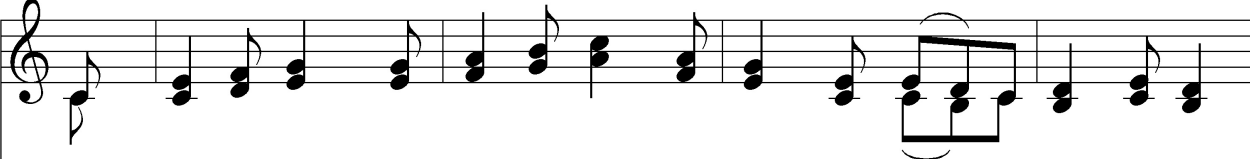
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

**\*\* GATHERING SONGS.**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"


*From the survey of favorite hymns*




1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,  
 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear  
 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.  
 to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;  
 till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.  
 and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,  
 With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es-caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
 I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.  
 and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

**\*\* 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.**

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, **you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 18:20-32

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

A reading from Genesis.

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of

twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

Psalm 138

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)*

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

**for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.

**The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

**You will make good your purpose for me;**

**O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## **SECOND READING**

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

A reading from Colossians.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

Luke 11:1-13

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Bob Swanson*

**\*\* HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Seek Ye First"

Canon



1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his right-eous -  
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and ye shall  
 3. You do not live by bread a - lone, but by ev - 'ry  
 4. Where two or three are gath-ered in my name, there am I in their



ness,  
 find;  
 word  
 midst;  
 and all these things shall be  
 knock, and the door shall be  
 that comes forth from the  
 and what-so - ev - er you  
 add-ed un - to you;  
 o-pened un - to you;  
 mouth of God;  
 ask I will do;





## \*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.  
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

*Assisting Minister*

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition concludes:*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

### OFFERING PRAYER

*Assisting Minister*

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*\* GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

### \*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

### \*\* LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

**\*\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

*For those communing at home:*

**COMMUNION** — *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

*Each person may respond: Amen.*

**Communion Statement** ~ If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.

**REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Assisting Minister*

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**\*\* SENDING OF COMMUNION**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.  
The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.*

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**\*\* BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*\* SENDING HYMN**

*"All the People Said Amen"*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

You are not alone if you are lonely.  
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.  
We are all the same - in need of mercy,  
To be forgiven and be free.  
It's all you got to lean on,  
But thank God it's all you need.

(Refrain - All)

**And all the people said, "amen." Whoa!  
And all the people said, "amen."  
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends;  
And all the people said, "amen."**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

If you're rich or poor... well it don't matter;  
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.  
We're all broken, but we're all in this together.  
God knows we stumble and fall,  
And he so loved the world,  
He sent his Son to save us all.

(Refrain - All)

And all the people said, "amen." Whoa!  
And all the people said, "amen."  
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends;  
And all the people said, "amen."

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)

**Blessed are the poor in spirit** who are torn apart;  
**Blessed are the persecuted** and the pure in heart;  
**Blessed are the people hungry** for another start,  
For theirs is the kingdom, **the kingdom of God.**

(Final Refrain - All)

And all the people said, "amen." Whoa!  
And all the people said, "amen."  
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends;  
And all the people said, "amen."

And all the people said, "amen." Whoa!  
And all the people said, "amen."  
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends;  
And all the people said, "amen."  
And all the people said, "amen."

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the spirit.  
**Created, saved and gifted by God,**  
**we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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**“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO**

MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,  
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION  
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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## Upcoming Commemorations

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672;  
George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians**

Monday, July 28, 2025

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany**

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

**Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030**

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.