



Union Lutheran Church

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7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

We welcome children to be a part of worship. A nursery is also provided for those attending to the needs of infants and small children.

*(Please stand when indicated by *)*

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

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Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *For the Fruit of all Creation* (Burkhardt)

GATHERING

- * Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness LBW p. 56
- * HYMN: *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* WOV# 783
- * Greeting (*Kyrie is omitted during Pentecost*) LBW p. 57
- * Hymn of Praise (*"All Glory Be to God" stanza 1...*) LBW# 166

**C All glory be to God on high, And thanks to him forever!
 Whatever Satan's host may try, God foils their dark endeavor.
 He bends his ear to ev'ry call, And offers peace, goodwill to all,
 And calms the troubled spirit.**

- * Salutation LBW p. 62
- * Prayer of the Day

WORD

Children's Message

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier

shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 65:1-8 *sung in unison*

¹You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;*

to you shall vows be performed | in Jerusalem.

²To you that hear prayer shall | all flesh come,*

because of | their transgressions.

³Our sins are strong- | er than we are,*

but you will | blot them out.

⁴Happy 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.

⁵Awesome 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.

⁶You make fast the mountains | by your power;*

they are girded a- | bout with might.

⁷You still the roaring | of the seas,*

the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

⁸Those 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.

New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

L Here ends the reading.

* Gospel Acclamation(“*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*” stanza 1 ...) LBW# 230

C Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword Would wrest the kingdom from your Son And bring to nought all he has done.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

* Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the

whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sower and the Seed (Hutson)

Pastor Heidi and the Chancel Choir

Sermon: *Bloom Where You're Planted*

Pastor Heidi Punt

* HYMN: *You Are the Seed*

WOV# 753

* Apostles' Creed

LBW p. 65

* Prayer of the Church & Sharing of the Peace

LBW p. 65-66

Offering *The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Building & Repair Fund. During the month of July, the Benevolence Teaching Moment is on India Transformed. Please prayerfully consider giving to the Benevolence Fund.*

Organ Offertory: *You are the Seed* (Miller)

MEAL

* Offertory (“*We Give Thee but Thine Own*” stanza 1)

LBW# 410

C **We give thee but thine own, Whate’er the gift may be; All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

* Offertory Prayer

LBW p. 67

* Great Thanksgiving

LBW p. 68

* Sanctus (“*Holy, Holy, Holy*” stanza 1)

LBW# 165

C **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

- * Words of Institution LBW p. 69
- * Lord's Prayer LBW p. 71
- Lamb of God ("*O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*") LBW# 103

C O Christ, thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world, Grant us thy peace! Amen

Distribution of Communion

At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

- * Blessing LBW p. 72
- * Post-Communion Canticle ("*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*" stanza 1) LBW# 221

C Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing, The people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended The fruits of this service in all who believe. The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching, Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

- * Post-Communion Prayer LBW p. 74

SENDING

- * Benediction LBW p. 74
- * HYMN: *For the Fruit of All Creation* LBW# 563

* Sending

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C Amen, amen, amen

Postlude: *For the Fruit of all Creation* (Hopson)

The ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in honor of Mark & Vicki Hunter's wedding anniversary on July 12.

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 1 (p. 56-76)
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Union News

Sunday, July 16

8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Produce Market

9:30 a.m. Summer Sunday School

The Beginning of Our Story ~ Genesis 3:1-15

I am fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)

Adult Sunday School Class:

The Sower and the Seed ~ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:1-8 Romans 8:12-17, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sermon: *Bloom Where You're Planted*

12 noon - 1:00 p.m. Produce Market

1:30 p.m. Executive Committee

2:00 p.m. Church Council

4:00 p.m. Day Camp Orientation (not too late to register or volunteer)

Needed donations for Day Camp (serving around **50** people for **5** days):

Fruit Snacks, Peanuts, Trail Mix...anything sweet or salty.

Fresh fruit is always appreciated.

*Please turn in the donations to the **Kitchen** and **label** for Day Camp.*

This Weeks' Activities:

Monday, July 17	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Day Camp 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Middle & High School
Tuesday, July 18	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Day Camp 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Middle & High School 6:30 p.m. 90 Days (both groups)
Wednesday, July 19	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Day Camp 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Middle & High School 4:30 p.m. Haiti Pastors Online Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Thursday, July 20	8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Day Camp (water games) 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Middle & High School 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
Friday, July 21	8:30 a.m.-12 noon Day Camp Closing, lunch, & ice cream social

Sunday, July 23

9:30 a.m. Summer Sunday School

God's Plan for Abraham ~ Genesis 12:1-8, 22:1-14

How precious is Your steadfast love, O God. (Psalm 36:7)

Adult Sunday School Class:

Weeds Among the Wheat ~ Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 119:57-64, Romans 8:18-27, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon: *Faith and Familiarity*
Deadline for August Messenger articles.
Altar Flowers are open for reservations for Sunday, July 23.

Those Serving in July

Acolytes: Bailey and Lucas Wilhelm

Altar Guild: Patsy Lyerly, Angie Poole, and Vivian Sprinkle

Communion Assistants:

Janice Goodman, Patsy Lyerly, and Vivian Sprinkle

Lay Readers Lucinda Fraley, Ethan, Ellie, Bailey and Lucas Wilhelm

Ushers: Phil Cauble, Larry Barringer, Ali Davis, and Frank Merrell

Offering Counters: Tara Davis, Cathy Painter, and Ron Vellines

If you are unable to serve on a Sunday scheduled, please find replacement and contact the church office by the Wednesday before with the name.

In the weekly bulletin & news, names are listed of those serving because it's a gentle reminder and helps connect names and faces!

Please remember to keep Mary Hutchens in your thoughts and prayers as she witnesses to the people of Slovakia from July 13-31.

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Sunday, July 30

9:30 a.m. Summer Sunday School

The Passover Lamb ~ Exodus 12:1-13, 29-42

You shall be My treasured possession. (Exodus 19:5)

Adult Sunday School Class: Finding & Gathering ~ Matthew 13:44-52

9:30 a.m. Good Timers preparations for service in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Good Timers are leading the worship service!

Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Psalm 125:1-5, Romans 8:28039, Matthew 13:44-52

Sermon: *The Nature of Heaven*

Altar Flowers are open for reservations for Sunday, July 30.

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90 Days Spiritual Fitness will continue during the month of August on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Food will be provided.

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August Choirs Schedule

Wednesday, August 2

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sunday, August 6

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesdays, August 16 & 23

No Choirs rehearsals

Wednesday, August 30

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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Sunday, August 6

9:30 a.m. Summer Sunday School

Slaying the Giant ~ 1 Samuel 17:4-18, 38-51

Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome. (Nehemiah 4:14)

Adult Sunday School Class: Inheriting the Kingdom ~ Galatians 5:13-26

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26, Romans 9:1-13, Matthew 14:13-21

Sermon: *Feeding the Five Thousand*

10:30 a.m. Recognition of 2022-2023 Sunday School Teachers & Officers

2:00 p.m. Christian Ed, Sunday School & Youth

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Union & Salem Middle/High School Youth

6:30 p.m. Belles & Beaus

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

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NALC Convocation “God the Father” in Oklahoma, OK, August 7-11

Delegates: Pastor Heidi Punt, Mary Hutchens with Frank Merrell, Alternate

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Mary & Martha Circle will meet at Deena Lanning’s home on Tuesday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m.

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Good Timers will meet **Thursday, August 10, at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Old Pine Center**. Following the program the group will eat lunch out at a local restaurant.

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*In preparing for Homecoming on Sunday, August 13, a **congregational workday** will be held on **Saturday, August 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m.***

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Homecoming 2023 at Union Lutheran Church will be **Sunday, August 13, at 10:30 a.m.** Union Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 249th anniversary! During the service we will be dedicating our new choir robes.

A covered dish lunch will follow worship in the Dutch Meeting Hall. Please bring a well-filled basket to share with all. Plates, etc., and beverages will be provided.

Invite family, friends and former members now to be with us for this special occasion on Sunday, August 12. This is a wonderful time to renew old relationships, update what is going on in the lives of others that have been special to us, and to form new relationships. Plan now to be a part of our Homecoming!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Pat Miller, Ruth Monroe (Autumn Care) & Jean Ray (Brookdale)

Homebound Members – Arnold Cauble, Rachel Earnhardt, Tommy Kerns, Jean Kluttz, Frances Norris, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery –Larry Barringer, Nancy Kesler, Joan Kerns, John Knight, Sharon Moore, William & Doris Page, Doug Peeler, Sylvia Peeler, Dalton Thompson & Wayne Vellines

Continual Prayer – Evonne Batten, Nancy Ballew (Kat Clifton's mother), Pr. Cassie Boehringer and her husband, Derek, have a young daughter who is Judson Merrell's associate at St. Peter's Lexington, SC (NALC), Pr. George Bradshaw (Junior Morgan's Pastor Friend), Bill Broadway, Glenn Eagle, Earleene Goodman (Tommy Goodman's mother), Nickie Hedrick (Cathy Painter's friend & co-worker), Pat Kluttz, Glenn & Betty Sue Lowder, Della Morgan (Pam Vellines' mother), Tim Shue (Larry & Karen Barringer's friend), Effie Vellines, Union Fire Department #76, NALC Leadership, Pastor Kalonji and Pastor Nuottila (Congo), Haiti (gangs) & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmation Students: Caylea Cline & Mallory Eagle

Stewardship Update

<i>Sunday School (7/9)</i>	34
<i>Worship & Holy Communion (7/9)</i>	95
<i>Current Offering received (7/9)</i>	\$3,113.00
<i>2023 Weekly offering needed to meet our Ministry Support plan</i>	\$6,482.37

How Can You Serve?

The **Sunday School Classes** invite the congregation to serve the community during the month of July by providing snacks for the Union Firefighters.

Donate something easy to grab and go for their calls.

Please place items on the pew outside of the church office.

Everyone is invited to participate!

PART TWO: What is Worship?

People often think **Worship** in the **Church Service** is about what we do for or toward God. The reality is quite different. In the **Divine Service**, God provides His service for us. God comes to us in the reading, preaching, and proclamation of His Word and in His Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. In **Worship**, God gives **His grace**, and we respond with thanks and praise.

(A Simple Explanation of the Church Service, Concordia Publishing House, page 2)

