Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2026

901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

1 **Open now thy gates of beauty;**
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

2 **Gracious God, I come before Thee;**
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

3 **Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;**
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 **Thou my faith increase and quicken;**
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe'er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 **Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;**
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 103:15–19; antiphon: v. 8

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Kyrie *LSB 186*

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 187*

P Glory be to God on high:

C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.
Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 55:10–13*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Romans 11:33, 36*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

Epistle Reading *Romans 8:12–17*

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB 190*

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel Reading *Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✢ everlasting. Amen.

Children's Message

577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 **Almighty God, Your Word is cast**
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

2 **Let not the sly satanic foe**
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

3 **Let not the world's deceitful cares**
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

4 **So when the precious seed is sown,**
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
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Sermon 'Growing Things' Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Offering

Offertory *LSB 192*

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P …Lord, in your mercy:
C **Hear our prayer.**
P …through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

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.

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

921 On What Has Now Been Sown

1 **On what has now been sown**
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2 **To Thee our wants are known,**
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 **O grant that each of us,**
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
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