



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



My Word...

will not return
to me empty

WELCOME

Welcome to Our Savior's on this Seventh Sunday of Pentecost! All three Scripture readings today describe God's Word with agricultural pictures. Isaiah describes God's Word as rain falling on the earth and producing food. Paul, to the Corinthians, says he planted the seed of faith, but God made it grow. Jesus uses a story of a farmer spreading seed to describe why some come to faith and other do not.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bountiful Lord God, your presence fills our hearts with joy, and your blessing nourishes our souls with peace. Enlighten us by your Holy Spirit that we may appreciate these gifts as tokens of your amazing love, to your glory and praise; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

- Minister ~ Vicar Caleb Gustafson
 - Organist ~ Marie Kurth
 - Ushers ~ Phil Brost, Travis Kurth
- Next week ~ Tony Sulko, Bill Unruh*

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

Worship Theme: DEFINE CHRISTIAN

The Christian is planted by the Word

Welcome

Opening Hymn

CW 981

- 1 In this place your Word is planted;
on our path the seed is sown.
To the Church your Word is spoken;
in our hearts a light has shone.
- 2 Let your planting not be wasted,
wilted soon in stony field.
Let our worldly cares not choke it,
robbing you of rightful yield.
- 3 Help us treasure holy wisdom,
savor ev'ry word you give.
Help us cherish Jesus' gospel,
bread by which your people live.
- 4 Blest are they who, truth receiving,
know its value more than gold.
Blest are they who, persevering,
bear good fruit a hundredfold.

Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939

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In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession & Absolution

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Song of Praise

CW 632 sts. 1, 3

- 1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,
and through your Word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;
let me your child and heir remain.

- 3 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
shall glory, praise, and honor be
now and throughout eternity.

Text: tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915; Johannes Olearius, 1611–1684
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

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 Isaiah 55:6-11

Amen.

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6–11

God's Word always works – a seed that produces fruit that God desires

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Psalm 65B

- 1 Ev'ry heart its tribute pays,
ev'ry tongue its song of praise;
sin and sorrow, guilt and care,
brought to him who answers prayer;
there by grace may humankind
full and free forgiveness find;
called and chosen, loved and blest,
in his presence be at rest.

- 2 Ever while his deeds endure
our salvation stands secure;
he whose fingers spun the earth,
gave the seas and mountains birth,
tamed the ocean, formed the land,
spread the skies with mighty hand:
faroff shores revere his name,
day and night his pow'r proclaim.

- 3 Year by year, the seasons' round
sees the land with blessing crowned,
where caressed by sun and rain
barren earth gives life again;
sunlit valleys burn with gold,
nature smiles on field and fold,
gifts of God in plenty poured:
all things living, praise the Lord!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

We sow the seed of God's Word, but only God can make it grow

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

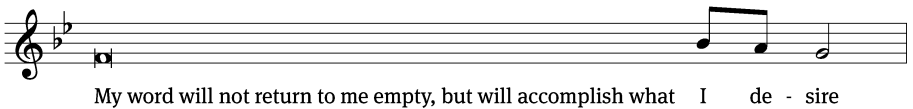
Isaiah 55:11



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9,18–23

The parable of the seed and the sower

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

- 1 Seek where you may to find a way that leads to your salvation.
My heart is stilled, on Christ I build, he is the one foundation.
His Word is sure, his works endure;
 he overthrows all evil foes;
through him I more than conquer.

- 2 Seek whom you may to be your stay, none can redeem another.
All helpers failed; this man prevailed,
 the God-man, Christ our brother.
This Servant-Lord our life restored;
 we're justified, for he has died,
the guiltless for the guilty.

- 3 Seek him alone who did atone, who did your souls deliver.
O seek him first, all you who thirst for grace that fails you never.
In ev'ry need seek him indeed;
 to ev'ry heart he will impart
his blessings without measure.

- 4 My heart's delight, my crown most bright,
 O Christ, you are forever.
Not wealth or pride or fortune's tide our bond of love shall sever.
You are my Lord; your precious Word
 shall light my way each daunting day.
O teach me, Lord, to trust you!

Text: tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899–1955, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635, abr.
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Sermon

Isaiah 55:6-11

It's Time for Some Rain

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

Prayer of the Church

Father of mercy, our sins have merited thorns and yield only trouble and strife. Forgive our transgressions and discipline us against temptation, that we may rejoice in your name and the promise of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you send forth your Word as abundantly as rains upon the earth. Grant that we would never take your generosity for granted, but would seek the help and refreshment of Your Word in every circumstance. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord of life, continue to sow your Word through the fields of the earth. Bless pastors and missionaries as they proclaim your truth. Prepare the hearts of all who hear to believe and yield abundant fruit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Creator of heaven and earth, by your Word you send forth rain and snow to make the world flourish. Give seed to the sower and bread to the eater. Provide us seasonable weather and bountiful harvest, that we may enjoy daily bread and praise your name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW 896

- 1 Dear Lord, to your true servants give
the grace to you alone to live.
Set free from sin to serve you, Lord,
they go to share your living Word,
the gospel message to proclaim
that all may know your saving name.

- 2 They gladly go at your command
to spread your Word o'er sea and land.
Be with them, Lord, and make them strong
to heal sin's ills, to right the wrong.
Your rule is over wind and wave,
and mighty is your arm to save.
- 3 When all their labor seems in vain,
revive their sinking hopes again;
and when success crowns what they do,
O keep them humble, Lord, and true
until before your judgment seat
they lay their trophies at your feet.

Text: W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

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***Thank you for worshiping with us!
May God richly bless your week.***

Farewell Door Offering Today for Vicar Gustafson

Vicar Gustafson will preach his last sermon at Our Savior's today. On July 31 he will return to his parents' home in West Bend to get ready for his senior year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. To thank Vicar Gustafson for his service to Our Savior's, we'll collect a door offering today to help with his tuition costs.

Serving the Pastoral Vacancy - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior's vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is pastorm@mysaintpeter.org.

Annual Meeting Next Sunday – All members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting on Sunday, July 30th, after the 9:00 am worship service. In addition to approving the 2023-2024 budget, there will be a report from the leaders regarding recent discussions held with the leaders of St Peter for potentially merging the ministries of the Lutheran Elementary Schools and/or the churches. At the congregational meeting held a few weeks ago permission was given to our leaders to have these talks.

“Thank You!” from the family of Audrey Bey

Thank you to the members of Our Savior’s who remembered our mother on her 100th birthday with cards, gifts, and prayers. Your many kind words and good wishes helped to make her birthday celebration truly special. Even more special is the shared faith in God she enjoys together with her “church family.” For more than 70 years the congregation has been an integral part of her life. May our dear Lord Jesus continue to bless you with his grace and generously pour out his Holy Spirit upon you.

Gifts & Memorials

We thank Dan & Ruth Jakubowski for their gift given with thanks to God for 40 years of blessings (July 23). We pray that our gracious Lord will continue to shower them with his rich blessings. Happy anniversary!

We thank Mark & Beth Krohn for their gift given in memory of Gene Arndt. Blessed be his memory.

Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.

Asleep in Jesus On July 5th the Lord called home to himself the soul of Gene Arndt. His family has chosen to hold a Celebration of Life at the Northwoods Veterans Post in Merrill on July 30 at 12:30 pm.

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.” Revelation 2:10

Devotion Materials – The July 2023 issue of Forward in Christ and the 3rd Quarter Portals of Prayer are available. Please pick up your copy of these publications in the narthex.

Fair Time! – Our Savior’s School will again work at the Noon Optimist’s Elephant Ear stand. If you’re willing to help us on Friday or Saturday, August 4 or 5, please contact Beth Krohn. There’s also an online sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094fa9ae22a3fccf8-osselephant#/>

This Week at Our Savior's

Today	9:00 AM	Worship
Sunday 7/30	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Annual Voters' Meeting

Growing Together

July 16, 2023

<u>Weekly</u> \$2,977.00	<u>Vision</u> \$285.00	<u>Debt Red</u> \$190.00	<u>Missions</u> \$50.00	<u>NLHS Op</u> \$10.00	<u>Plate</u> \$26.00
<u>A Bey Celebration Gift</u> \$500.00	<u>Jakubowski Anniv</u> \$100.00	<u>Vicar Gift</u> \$165.00	<u>Magic Paper Box</u> \$14.16		

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038

Attendance: Sunday, July 16 – 62

Our Savior's School Is Enrolling – If you or someone you know is interested in Christian education for their child, please contact us via phone (715-845-3253), contact one of our teachers, or email OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org.

- The 2023-24 school year begins on Wednesday, August 23rd.
- Registration is scheduled for August 8 from 4:00-6:00 pm.

Sharing Jesus With Others – A new Bible Information Class, “Life’s Big Questions”, is scheduled to begin in the lower level of the Ministry Center at the St. Peter Schofield Campus on Monday, August 21 at 6:30 pm. Please consider speaking about this with a friend, relative, associate at work, or a neighbor. Invite them to attend, and to at least try the first few lessons. You may even want to offer to come with the person so he/she feels more comfortable. So that there are plenty materials on hand, please RSVP to Pastor Mahnke. Life’s Big Questions is perfect for anyone without a church connection and/or for anyone interested in exploring the Christian faith.



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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church

703 Flieth St, Wausau WI 54401

715-845-3253

Email: OSInfo@oursaviorswausau.org

Website: www.oursaviorswausau.org

Facebook: Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School

Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Vacancy Pastor

715-297-0132

pastorm@mysaintpeter.org

