

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. We gather with eager longing to know you, ever-present God, and to be known by you. We want to live as your beloved children. Assure us in these moments that you hear our prayers, even as your will is revealed to us. Fill our dreams and our waking hours with radiant hope. May every time of encounter move us to awe and fervent worship. Lead us in your way everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.
All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.
One: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.
All: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.
One: Come now, all who thirst,
All: and drink the water of life.
One: Come now, all who hunger,
All: and be filled with good things.
One: Come now, all who seek,
All: and be warmed by the fire of love.

*OPENING HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #376
(vs. 1, 2, & 4)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Search us and test us, that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator. Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage. Reshape our will to confirm with your intentions for us. We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives. Our focus has drifted from the harvest you intend to the fears and greed that hold us hostage. Release us from bondage to decay that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON “Change My Heart, O God”
Lt. Blue Songbook #61

Singing: Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.
You are the potter, I am the clay,
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.

. . . *to Proclaim God’s Word*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O god, our guide, set your path clearly before us and lead us to follow you willingly for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 28: 10-19a p. 25

SPECIAL MUSIC “Freely, Freely” Dave Thomas
And David Arends

SECOND READING Romans 8: 12-25 p. 158

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 p. 13
One: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Wailing with Creation” David Arends

*HYMN OF RESPONSE “In the Bulb There Is a Flower”
Lt. Blue Songbook #88

. . . *to Give Thanks to God* . . .

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE OFFERTORY

*OFFERING RESPONSE
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #592
Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, we are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us, assuring us of your acceptance and love. May our offerings share this good news with other children of God who have not yet discovered their true identity. Make us grow in grace, ministry and gratitude. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

. . . *and to Be Sent in God’s Name*

