

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship



Starlight Sower by Hai Knafo

Como Park Lutheran Church, ELCA, RIC

Reaching out in Christ to a changing world.

1376 Hoyt Ave W | Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 646-7127

www.ComoParkLutheran.org



We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship, community, and faith.

We acknowledge and celebrate the rich diversity within and around us. As a community rooted in the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to creating a space where people of all races, ages, ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions are not only included but deeply valued and seen as essential to our shared journey.

Together, we value human diversity as a divine gift and blessing—a reflection of God’s boundless creativity and love. Because of this, we commit ourselves in ministry to fully embracing all people and advancing racial equity in our ministry.

We recognize that we hold a variety of beliefs, perspectives, and lived experiences; and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together. If you have questions, feedback, or needs for assistance, please ask. We seek to grow together in ministry, community and faith, and we are glad that you are here with us today.

~ The People of Como Park Lutheran Church

**Coffee hour will take place immediately after the service.
Join us in the Narthex for coffee and light snacks.**

Upcoming events and announcements can be found at the back of the bulletin.

This service is broadcast live on YouTube and recorded for later viewing:
www.youtube.com/c/ComoParkLutheranChurch



Regular - Liturgist
Bold - Congregation
✠ - Stand as able



ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Word of God, Come Down to Earth

setting by Robert J. Powell

WELCOME, GREETING, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

~ Silence is kept for reflection. ~

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

ELW 533

✠THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

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.

✠KYRIE

ELW 157

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Assistant:

All:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Assistant:
Help, save and de - fend us, O God.
All:
A - - - men.

✠NOW THE FEAST

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,

all of cre - a - tion sings for joy

to the God of life and love and

free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -

er - more!

Verse 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once

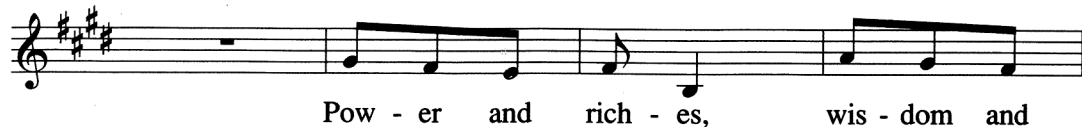
slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit - ed us to be one great

To refrain



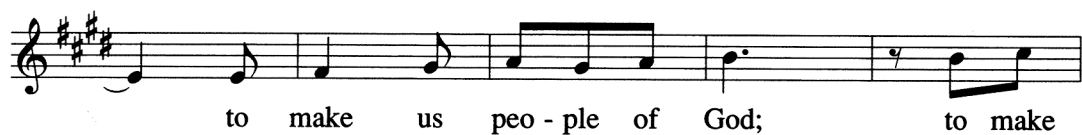
Verse 2



To refrain



Verse 3



To refrain



✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered 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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, 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 be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

✠**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mathew the Thirteenth Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Meg Duncan

(Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595)

SERMON

Pastor Elizabeth Damico Carper

✠HYMN OF THE DAY

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

✠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 the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
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

... Lord, in your mercy,
... **hear our prayer.**

✠THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(In sharing God's Peace we share with each other our hope for God's blessing by shaking hands, or turning to one another and nodding, or bumping fists and saying "God's peace be with you.")

THE MEAL

OFFERING

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals

Sigrid Karg-Elert

Eloise Numainville, Aaron Purdham, Elsa Ballata,
William Ballata, Emily Purdham, Bianca Brogger

Electronic offerings can be made using smart phones and tablet devices by going to www.ComoParkLutheran.org and clicking on the "donate" button. You may also use the giving kiosk in the narthex located by the staircase.



✠OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠WORDS OF INSTITUTION (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

In the night in which he was betrayed...
... Do this for the remembrance of me.

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 11:15)

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

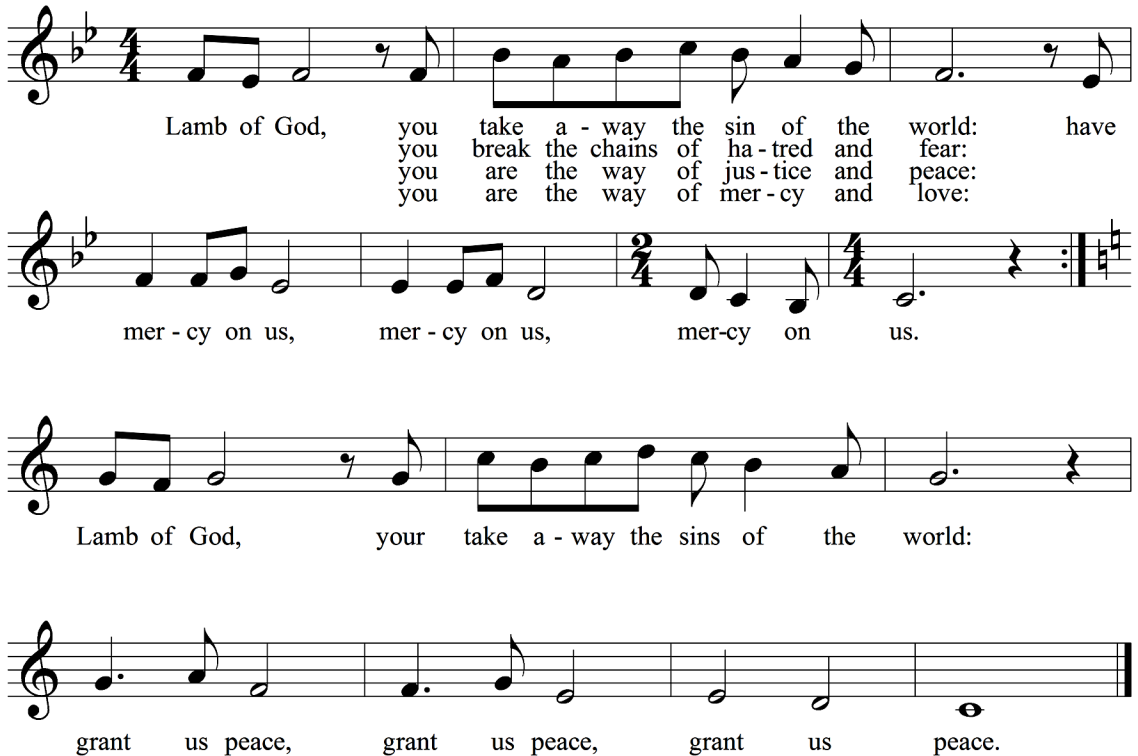
**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

All who believe Christ is truly present in the sacrament are invited to receive communion. At the server, hold out the flat of your palm to receive the wafer. If you desire gluten-free wafers, simply say to the first server “gluten-free.” Then, step to the second server and take the wine in the small cup. The cups hold red wine and grape juice. If you are allergic to grapes, you are free to receive only the bread, knowing that Christ is fully present within each element. Children who do not yet commune will receive a blessing from pastor or first server.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
you break the chains of ha - tred and fear:
you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
you are the way of mer - cy and love:

mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, your take a - way the sins of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

✠POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

✠POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE SENDING

✠BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

✠CLOSING HYMN

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

ELW 516

✠DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praeludium, Fuga und Ciacona BuxWV137

Buxtehude

Please pray for...

Anders N.	Tyler F. (brother-in-law of Ginger F.)
Kathy H.	J.J. K. (great grandson of Bill H.)
Ann L.	Joe (friend of Sandra H.)
Ruth R.	Cheryl & Jim (quilter & husband)
Gina K.	Nichole (friend of Como Connects)
Gary (friend of Deb S.)	Mary C.
Heidi G.	... and all in need of prayers

We welcome names of members, family, and friends on our prayer list.

✠ ✠ ✠

Serving in the Military

Dane Beecham, Jonathan Lund, Kristian Nelson
... and all others who serve

✠ ✠ ✠

We pray regularly for all members and friends of our congregation.

This week in worship, we pray for:

Joy & Haley Walsh
Kaylynn Ann Weltzien
Sue Woodhall
Charles Worthington
Dick & Zarida Young
Judy Zalk
Michael Zalk, Ida, David, Daniel

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Pastor: Elizabeth Damico Carper

Director of Music Ministry: Tom Ferry

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Date	July 12, 2026
Time	9:30 AM
Acolyte	Harper O'Brien
Communion Prep	Pam Ballis
Assisting Minister	Craig Canada
Communion Asst 1	David Harris
Communion Asst 2	Shirley Dingman
Greeter	Jean Milton
Coffee Servers	David & Nahoko Person
Children's Message	Meg Duncan
Reader	David Harris
Liturgist	Rebecca Numainville
Ushers	Team 1
Welcome Desk	Mary Ann Schmidt
Bus Helper	Shirley Dingman
Bus Driver	Lowell Lundy
Video Tech	Ken Purdham

USHER TEAM

Team 1: Darrell Anderson, Fred Halberg, Sam Schultz

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AFTON WATER Music: Jonathan E. Spilman; arr. Hymnal version © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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ST. FLAVIAN Music: J. Day, public domain

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals by Sigrid Karg-Elert arranged by Michael Burkhardt © 2023 Birnamwood Publications

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Word of God, Come Down to Earth setting by Robert J. Powell © 2014 Augsburg Fortress

MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN JUST A LITTLE TIME:

VOLUNTEER WITH MEALS ON WHEELS!

We need your help! Volunteer with Meals on Wheels to deliver nutritious meals to older adults and adults with disabilities in our local community.

BRIGHTEN SOMEONE'S DAY!

By volunteering, you're doing more than delivering food. You're offering a warm smile, a quick wellness check, and a meaningful connection for older adults and adults with disabilities in our community. Many of our volunteers say it's one of the most rewarding ways to spend an hour of their day.

LOW TIME COMMITMENT

Volunteers pick up freshly prepared meals from Anpétu Téča Education Center on weekdays at 11:00 a.m. and deliver them to a small number of nearby homes and apartments. Most delivery routes are completed by 12:30 p.m.

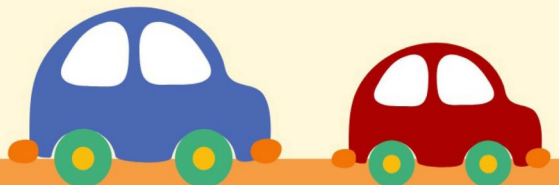
Whether you can help one day per week, one day per month, or just as a substitute when others are occasionally unavailable, your time makes such a meaningful difference.

SIGN UP TODAY!

Email Sue at sue@comoparklutheran.org. Thank you!



Roseville Area Schools
Meals on Wheels



Please Consider Supporting These Efforts

CAN YOU LEND AN AIR MATTRESS?



July 18–25

Our Japanese student guests will be sleeping on the floor of an elementary school gym during their week-long work camp. We're hoping to make their stay a little more comfortable by borrowing air mattresses from our congregation.

- Drop off air mattresses at the church office by July 18
- They will be returned after the students leave
- Questions? Contact David Person

WORKCAMP: HOME REPAIR IN BARNESVILLE, MN



Each summer, students from Japan travel to Minnesota for a week of faith, fellowship, and hands-on service. During their stay, they partner with local organizations to complete home repair projects for seniors, veterans, and families who couldn't otherwise afford them.

Projects may include building wheelchair ramps, repairing porches, painting homes, installing handrails, weatherizing houses, and other essential repairs that help people remain safe in their homes. This year, they head to Barnesville, MN.

WHY YOUR HELP MATTERS

By lending an air mattress, you're helping them get the rest they need after long days of repairing homes and serving others. It's a simple way to support their mission and extend the same hospitality they'll be sharing with the Barnesville community.

**JULY 12, 2026
SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



God's word brings new life and growth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower
Monday	Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-13	God's word is powerful
Wednesday	Psalms 119:105-112	Light from the Lord's law
Thursday	Genesis 25:19-34	Esau and Jacob
Friday	Leviticus 26:1-13	Rewards for obedience
Saturday	Psalms 65:1-13	Thanksgiving for earth's bounty
Sunday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the weeds

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. Psalm 65:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of abundant grace and mercy, help us to receive your word of life that we may be your good soil to grow in faith and share your word with others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant harvests, we thank you for your eternal care that blesses us with daily food through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God lead you out in joy and back in peace. (Isaiah 55:12)



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JULY 12, 2026

HYMN OF THE WEEK

As Rain from the Clouds



**taking⁺
faith
home**

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is needed for a garden to be productive?
- When and where do you receive God's word?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 55:10-13 and Romans 8:1-11.

Yes, we have an awesome God, as noted in Psalm 65:5. In Isaiah 55 that awesomeness is expressed through God's word that is powerful. It does what God intends. It is productive. Isaiah 55 announces the return from exile for God's people. God's word, God's will shall accomplish it. This text is often used at the ordination of a pastor or a deacon. However, could we not also use it at weddings, baptisms, and any other occasion that celebrates God's people living together in faith, hope, and love? God's word is given for all of us to speak aloud to one another for our encouragement and growth in life and faith. God's word at a meal creates thankful hearts for the abundance of God's love with daily food. God's word in the morning, evening, or at bedtime reminds us of the eternal care of God and that we are those in whom the Spirit of Christ dwells and for whom there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1 and 11). Let's cast God's word into all the corners of the earth, landing on all kinds of soil where it may sprout up and produce an abundant harvest.

Discuss: When are times during the week that you use and speak God's word?

Pray: **Creative God, may the Spirit of Christ create in me the good soil to receive your word and grow in grace. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to help plant the seeds of God's word with those around you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



"But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit" (Matthew 13:23a). Take a sheet of paper and write "Good Soil" across the bottom. Draw a fruit tree with a trunk, leaves, and fruit. On each drawing of fruit, write different ways you show God's love to others. Read what you have written and think or talk about how your "fruits" help you and others grow in their faith.

Then pray: **Dear God, give us the faith to bear good fruit. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

**Please visit the Welcome Desk in the narthex
if you have any questions about our facility or upcoming events.**

**Adult Forums, Membership Classes,
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