

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. John's Tide**  
**July 15-16, 2023**  
**Divine Service, Setting Four, p. 203**

**Prelude**

**Confession and Absolution** (*stand*)

p. 203

**Introit** *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

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 com- | mandments.

**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 be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,\*  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

**Kyrie**

p. 204

**Gloria in Excelsis**

**Collect of the Day**

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. **Amen.** (*sit*)

**Old Testament** *The Compassion of the Lord*

Isaiah 55:10–13

<sup>10</sup>“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,

<sup>11</sup>so 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.

<sup>12</sup>“For 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.

<sup>13</sup>Instead 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."

- 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 know- | edge 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**

*Heirs with Christ*

Romans 8:12–17

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For 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. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For 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!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and 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.

- A This is the word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

**Verse of the Day** (*stand*)

Isaiah 40:8

C **Al- le- | lu- ia.\* Al- le- | lu- ia.**

A The grass withers, the | flower fades,\*  
but the word of our God will stand for- | ever.

C **Al- le- | lu- ia.\* Al- le- | lu- ia.**

**Holy Gospel** *The Parable of the Sower*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>When 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. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet 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. <sup>22</sup>As 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. <sup>23</sup>As 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

<b>Apostles' Creed</b>	p. 207
<b>Hymn of the Day</b> ( <i>sit</i> ) "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast" LSB 577, <i>soloist st. 3</i>	
<b>Sermon</b> "Farming with Jesus"	Matthew 13:1-9
<b>Prayer of the Church</b> ( <i>stand</i> )	<i>congregation responds "Hear our prayer"</i>
<b>Offering</b> ( <i>sit</i> )	
<b>Preface</b> ( <i>stand</i> )	p. 208
<b>Sanctus</b>	
<b>Prayer of Thanksgiving</b>	p. 209
<b>Lord's Prayer</b>	
<b>Words of Institution</b>	
<b>Pax Domini</b>	
<b>Agnus Dei</b>	p. 210
<b>Distribution</b> ( <i>sit</i> ) "For the Fruits of His Creation"	LSB 894
<b>Nunc Dimittis</b> ( <i>stand</i> )	p. 211
<b>Post-Communion Collect</b>	p. 212
<b>Benedicamus and Benediction</b>	
<b>Closing Hymn</b> "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"	LSB 643
<b>Postlude</b>	