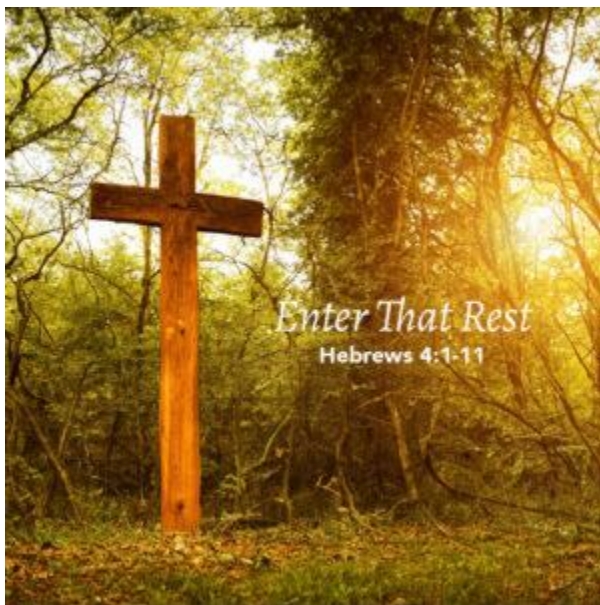




St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 7th Sunday After Pentecost

July 12, 2026 10:30 Service of the Word

Life can be hard. Perhaps it is always hard. Perhaps every day feels like an uphill climb, and you fall back all too easily. This is the reality of life for many. Our worship series on Hebrews looks at Hebrews 3 and 4 today. There we'll find messages of promised rest for those who labor through life.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting St. John's we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all who are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn Golden Breaks the Dawn

(For music see Hymn 852 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Golden breaks the dawn,
comes the eastern sun;
like a rider strong,
set the course to run.
Birds above me fly,
flowers bloom below;
through the earth and sky
God's great mercies flow.**
2. **Holy, living God,
keep me safe today;**

though I weary plod,
make me kind, I pray.
Let me guide our youth,
honor weak and old;
let me serve with truth,
and God's love unfold.

3. Give me daily bread,
while I do my part;
bright skies overhead,
gladness in my heart.
Simple wants provide,
evil let me shun;
Jesus at my side,
till the day is done.

Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price, 1885-1974. Music: Te-ngai Hu, Text and music copyright 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd. Hong Kong.

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Exodus 17:1-7

B: From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?’ ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’ ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ ⁵The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’ Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, ‘Is the Lord among us or not?’

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 95:6-11 (*read responsively*)

D: Come, bow down and worship,
kneel to the Lord our maker.

**C: This is our God, our shepherd,
we are the flock led with care.**

D: Listen today to God’s voice:
“Harden no heart as at Meribah,
on that day in the desert at Massah.

**C: There your people tried me,
though they had seen my work.**

D: “Forty years with that lot!
I said: They are perverse,
they do not accept my ways.

**C: So I swore in my anger:
They shall not enter my rest.”**

Second Reading Hebrews 3:7-4:11

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,
‘Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
as on the day of testing in the wilderness,
⁹ where your ancestors put me to the test,
though they had seen my works ¹⁰for forty years.

Therefore I was angry with that generation,
and I said, “They always go astray in their hearts,
and they have not known my ways.”

¹¹ As in my anger I swore,
“They will not enter my rest.” ’

¹²Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil,
unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one
another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’, so that none of you may
be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have become partners
of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵As it is
said,

‘Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’

¹⁶Now who were they who heard and yet were rebellious? Was it not all
those who left Egypt under the leadership of Moses? ¹⁷But with whom
was he angry for forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose bodies
fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did he swear that they would not
enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹So we see that they
were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take
care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ²For indeed
the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did
not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who
listened. ³For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,
‘As in my anger I swore,

“They shall not enter my rest” ’,

though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. ⁴For in
one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows: ‘And God rested on
the seventh day from all his works.’ ⁵And again in this place it says,
‘They shall not enter my rest.’ ⁶Since therefore it remains open for some
to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter
because of disobedience, ⁷again he sets a certain day—‘today’—saying
through David much later, in the words already quoted,

‘Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.’

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about
another day. ⁹So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of
God; ¹⁰for those who enter God’s rest also cease from their labors as God

did from his. ¹¹Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 24:42,44)

C: Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:27-30

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said] All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Change My Heart, O God

(For music turn to Hymn 801 in the Red Hymnal)

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.

Text and music: Eddie Espinosa, 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services.

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

C: 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 our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are lifted in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(For music turn to Hymn 631 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**
- 2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;**

**end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**

**3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**4. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

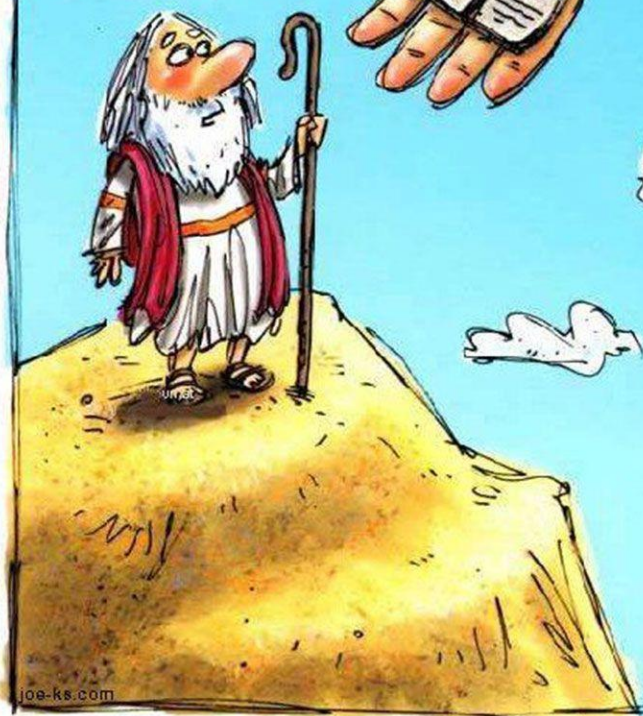
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Take two tablets
and call me
in the morning.



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Counters	Michele Myers and Anne Stromstad
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 19

Greeters and Ushers	John and Linda Thompson
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant	Janice Lockwood
Counters	Greg and Mary Zuege
Coffee Hour	

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