

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Year A**  
**12<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

*Sentence: John 6.63, 68*

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.

*Collect:*

Bountiful God,  
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:  
by your Holy Spirit,  
help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it,  
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*First Reading: Isaiah 55.10-13*

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

<sup>10</sup> For 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, <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 succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> For 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. <sup>13</sup> Instead 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 65.1-13*

<sup>1</sup> You are to be praised, O God, in Zion:  
to you shall vows be paid, you that answer prayer.

<sup>2</sup> To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins:  
when our misdeeds prevail against us,  
you will purge them away.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed are those whom you choose and take to yourself  
to dwell within your courts:  
we shall be filled with the good things of your house,  
of your holy temple.

<sup>4</sup> You will answer us in your righteousness  
with terrible deeds, O God our saviour:  
you that are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the distant seas;

<sup>5</sup> Who by your strength made fast the mountains:  
you that are girded with power;

<sup>6</sup> Who stilled the raging of the seas,  
the roaring of the waves:  
and the tumult of the peoples.

<sup>7</sup> Those who dwell at the ends of the earth  
are afraid at your wonders:  
the dawn and the evening sing your praises.

<sup>8</sup> You tend the earth and water it:  
you make it rich and fertile.

<sup>9</sup> The river of God is full of water:  
and so providing for the earth,  
you provide grain for us all.

<sup>10</sup> You drench its furrows, you level the ridges between:  
you soften it with showers and bless its early growth.

<sup>11</sup> You crown the year with your goodness:  
and the tracks where you have passed drip with fatness.

<sup>12</sup> The pastures of the wilderness run over:  
and the hills are girded with joy.

<sup>13</sup> The meadows are clothed with sheep:  
and the valleys stand so thick with corn,  
they shout for joy and sing.

*Second Reading: Romans 8.1-11*

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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.

Hear the Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation:*

Alleluia. **Alleluia!**

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;  
all who come to him will live for ever.

**Alleluia!**

*The Holy Gospel: Matthew 13.1-23*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew,

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake.

<sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> 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. <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 brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!' <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' <sup>11</sup> He answered, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup> For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>13</sup> The reason I speak to them in parables is that "seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand."

<sup>14</sup> With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: "You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. <sup>15</sup> For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn — and I would heal them." <sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it. <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 is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on 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 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. <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 lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*General Synod (2001) – Sea Sunday*  
*APBA p. 205 Prayer 11*

Heavenly Father, we commend to you all seafarers.  
Guard and protect them in danger and temptation;  
sustain them in loneliness;  
and support them in sickness and anxiety.  
Bless all who minister to them.  
Watch over those who are near and dear to them and grant them the blessing of  
your presence.  
These things we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**