

Sunday Worship

Sunday, 12 July 2026

Ordinary 15 A

Greetings and Welcome

In today's readings, God chooses Jacob before he has earned anything, reminding us that calling begins with grace rather than merit. The psalmist treasures God's word as a lamp that keeps weary feet on the path. Paul declares that life in Christ is no longer shaped by condemnation but by the Spirit who gives life. Jesus tells of a sower who scatters seed everywhere, revealing that the abundance of God's word is never the problem; the real question is whether hearts will allow that call to take root and bear fruit.

As we greet one another in the different languages that connect us to each other and to this land, let us remember that God's harvest is found not in uniformity but in the many ways hearts receive and nurture the gift that has been sown. Every language, culture and voice is another place where God's word can take root and bear fruit.

Balka wittaberri! (Goreng Goreng)

Balka wittaberri!

בֹּקֶר טוֹב! [Boqer Tov] (Hebrew)

Boqer Tov! [boker tove] (Hebrew)

καλή μέρα! [Kalí Méra] (Greek)

Kalí méra! [Kalay merra] (Greek)

Goeie dag! (Afrikaans)

Goeie dag!

Namasta! (Nepalese)

Namasta! (Nepalese)

Guten Morgen! (German)

Guten Morgen! (German)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Noa'ia! (Rotuman)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Magandang Umaga! (Filipino)

Zou San! (Cantonese)

Zou San! [jaow sun] (Cantonese)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Marhaba! (Arabic)

Parev! (Armenian)

Parev! (Armenian)

G'day! (Australian)

G'day! (Australian)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In this Season of the Spirit, we light a candle,
reminding us of the fire of hope and freedom.

As this flame flickers, we commit
to spread its light and heat in the world.

As we gather as Spirit-filled disciples of Christ,
we see the presence of the Spirit among us,
uniting us as we worship God.

Acknowledgement of Country

*And as we worship God in the presence of the Spirit, who has been on this
land since the beginning of time, let us take a moment to recognise all the
resources God has generously provided us through it.*

For this Land

We give thanks!

For the First People who cared for this land

We give thanks!

For all nations and people who live on this land

We give thanks!

We honour the custodians
of sacred stories,
of dreamings
and the connections
with the deep earth.

*May we work together
for the restoration
of the Land
and its People.*

Call to Worship

Your grace is a lamp for our hearts, O God.

Light our way through the shadows of this world.

When we struggle with questions and doubts,

tell us your stories of hope and grace.

When we are about to wander off into the wilderness,

show us the paths to your peace and joy.

Praise Hymn:

Thy Word

Psalm 65 says, "Blessed are those You choose and bring near to live in Your courts." As we draw near to God today, we remember that His presence and His Word lead us each step of the way. As we stand and sing, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path", may His truth guide our hearts in worship.

Prayer of Invocation/Adoration/Thanksgiving/Approach

Psalm 65 says: "O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come." Let us come to the God who answers prayers. Let us pray:

God of promise,
when we wonder
why life is the way
it seems to be,

you teach us how
to live for others.

When we would sell
our birthright of grace
for a bowl of sin's stew,
you nourish us with
a serving of hope.

Listen to our hearts and words.

Christ of the Word,
when we are convinced

we are only barren soil,
you plant seeds of grace
deep within us.

When our souls are as
parched as dry deserts,
you refresh us
with the waters
of goodness and mercy.

Fill our hearts with your words.

Spirit of freedom,
you come into our hearts,
to tear down the great wall of hostility
we have built over the years,
setting us free to play
in the fellowship of peace.

You help us to let go
of our focus on ourselves,
so we may reach out
to share with others.

Send us forth to live your words.

With our hearts and with our words,
we lift our prayers to you,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen!

Praise Time:

Amazing Love

David writes in Psalm 65, "You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Saviour." Amazing love, how can it be, that You, my King, would die for me? Let us praise the Lord of Amazing Love by standing to sing Amazing Love.

Prayer of Confession

We talk about lives of faith, but are usually found walking down the streets of seduction and temptation. God sends the Spirit to live in us, so we might have life with God. Let us confess our mis-steps.

Let us pray:

God of Life,

we walk through the world so focused on ourselves, that we do not notice sin laying traps for us. We choose favourites, hurting folks looking for love. In our rush to grasp what we want, we let go of your promises given for us. In resisting your claims on us, we turn our backs on your dreams for us.

God of Faithfulness,

forgive us and have mercy. Like Isaac and Rebekah, we are heirs of your trust; like Jacob, we receive your grace before we have done anything to deserve it; like Esau, we too often trade your promises for what satisfies us only for a moment. May Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, sow seeds of faithfulness and hope in our hearts.

Silence is kept

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Through the Spirit of life, God sets us free from sin and restores us to new life.

Your sins are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

The Peace

The Lord gives us strength;

The Lord blesses us with peace;

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements/Notices

Prayers of Intercession

Our notices are part of our service, so we bring them to God. Our prayers reach beyond ourselves and our congregation. God calls us to care for all creation, so we join the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle and pray for Eritrea and Ethiopia, for the victims of human rights abuses and for understanding and respect among the many ethnic groups in these and all countries.

Include other events or incidents that you will be praying for.

Note: You can find some prayers for this week on my blog, [Prayers](#).

Let us pray for the church, for our community, and for the world.

God of creativity,
guide us to find ways to celebrate together that respect our diversity. Help us create inclusive ways that honour all cultures and remember our history, both good and bad.

God of nations,
we thank you for placing the indigenous peoples here in this land. We thank you for their care and stewardship of your great creation for thousands of years. We thank you for their survival against many odds. Open our minds to learn to respect, appreciate, and acknowledge their culture.

God of suffering,
while we cherish the new life you give us, we cannot fully enjoy this gift as we witness the suffering of far too many of our sisters and brothers: those whose dignity is denied by poverty; those who flee the violence of war; those whose rights are abused by exploitation or discrimination; those who are victims in their own homes; and those whose lives have been shattered by natural disasters.

While you have given your Son for all, we often fail to recognise that others are your children too. Make us instruments of your peace, that we may stand

against violence and injustice wherever they are found. Give us the courage to raise our voices, to work for justice, and to share your love with all.

[Add more prayers here](#)

God of healing,
Your Son, Jesus, walked on earth, healing people from many illnesses. We have different kinds of diseases today, but we still need your healing touch. We bring to you all who are waiting for your healing.

In the silence of our hearts, we raise to you the names of those we know and remember:

— A moment of silence —

We also bring to you those we forgot and those we do not know.

Open our eyes and give us the wisdom to see where we can bring your healing and hope in our relationships, neighbourhoods and communities as your hopeful and compassionate people.

God of unity,
guide us towards understanding and respect among all ethnic groups. Help us break down divisions and foster reconciliation. May we see each other as family, deserving of love and respect. Fill our hearts with empathy and our actions with compassion, so Your peace may reign.

Empower us to work towards a world where justice and harmony prevail, and where all people can live in safety and dignity. As one family in Christ, with sisters and brothers in every nation and language, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn/Song:

Jesus Be the Centre

Psalm 65 declares that God is “the hope of all the ends of the earth.” In every season, Christ alone is our hope and foundation. As we sing, “Jesus, be the centre, be my source, be my light,” may He take His rightful place at the centre of our lives and our worship.

Do not read the titles (black or red text in bold)

Prayer of Illumination

Let us say the prayer of illumination together.

Open our eyes, gracious Lord, as we turn to your word.

We long to know you, to understand life, and to be changed.

Examine us, Lord, by the floodlight of your truth.

Amen.

Scripture

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 25:19-34

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Genesis 25:19-34

The Old Testament reading is from Genesis, chapter twenty-five, verses nineteen to thirty-four. Listen now for the word of God.

- 25:19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,
- 25:20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.
- 25:21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.
- 25:22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.
- 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."
- 25:24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.
- 25:25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau.

- 25:26 Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.
- 25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.
- 25:28 Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.
- 25:29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.
- 25:30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!"
- 25:31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."
- 25:32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"
- 25:33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.
- 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Romans 8:1-11

The Epistle Reading is from the epistle to the Romans, chapter eight, verses one to eleven. Listen now for the word of God.

- 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
- 8:3 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,
- 8:4 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.
- 8:5 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.

- 8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- 8:7 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,
- 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 8:9 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.
- 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- 8:11 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.

For the Word of God in Scripture.

For the Word of God among us.

For the Word of God within us.

Thanks be to God

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Gospel reading is from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter thirteen, verses one to nine, then verses eighteen to twenty-three. Listen now to the Word of God

- 13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
- 13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.
- 13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.
- 13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.
- 13:5 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.
- 13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

- 13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
- 13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
- 13:9 Let anyone with ears listen!”
- 13:18 “Hear then the parable of the sower.
- 13:19 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.
- 13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
- 13:21 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.
- 13:22 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.
- 13:23 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Children's Story

Sermon:

This Call May Change You

Hymn/ Offering

The Summons (v1,2)

Prayer for Offering

For all wandering in the shadows of loneliness, may our gifts bring light.
For all who have had promises broken, may our gifts bring healing.

For all who have been left behind by the powerful,
may our gifts offer the gift of community.

Amen.

Communion Song:

The Summons (v3)

Communion

Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, repent of their sin, and seek peace with one another. Here we do not come because we have already borne fruit, but because God continues to call us into the divine purpose. Come and receive the Bread of Life and the Cup of Hope, that Christ may nourish the seed already sown within you, and strengthen you to bear fruit in the world.

Narrative Of The Institution Of The Lord's Supper

Hear the words of the institution of this sacrament, as recorded by Matthew, in chapter 26 (this is from the Message Translation):

During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread ..., broke it, and gave it to his disciples:

Take, eat.

This is my body.

... Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them:

Drink this, all of you.

This is my blood,

God's new covenant, poured out for many people
for the forgiveness of sins.

"I will not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."

And so, according to our Saviour's command, we set this bread and this cup apart for the holy supper, remembering his call that we must not let familiarity breed contempt, and we come to God with our prayers of thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The God of seasons be with you!

And also with you!

Offer your hearts to God, who calls us into the divine purpose.

We lift them to the One who plants the Word within us.

May hope and faithfulness be on your lips this day.

We sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to the One whose purpose bears fruit in every generation.

God of imagination,
into the rocky heart of chaos,
you sowed the seeds of beauty.
Into the barren emptiness,
you cast hope and grace.
Creation sprang forth,
your goodness bubbling up
in streams flowing down
to crystal clear oceans;
your compassion providing all
we would ever need to live.
You sowed,
so we might feast
on your peace and grace,
but once we had tasted
the desires of the flesh,
we hungered for more and more.
Prophets came,
sowing your Word among us,

but it fell on thorny hearts.
So you sent Jesus,
calling us once more
into your purpose,
and doing for us
what we could not do.

Therefore, with those who hunger for your word,
in every generation, in every time, in every place,
we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you:

*Holy, holy, holy are you, Light and Lamp to all.
All creation is filled with your Spirit.
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed is the Sower of salvation who comes to us.
Hosanna in the highest!*

As you send your grace
upon these gifts of your feast,
may your Spirit of life
rest upon them and
upon your children gathered here.
As Christ, the Bread of Life,
feeds us with hope,
 may we go out
 to walk with all who stumble
 along the paths of life.
As we share the Cup of Salvation
nourishing the rock gardens
of our barren souls,
 may we become the foundation
 of justice and peace for our communities.
As your Word of grace
prunes our thorny hearts,

may we welcome all those
who have sold their hopes
for a meal of broken promises.

Then, when all time comes to an end,
when we are called to your Table
for that great feast with our siblings,
we will grip one another's hands,
and join our voices in praising you,
God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

... Christ is the bread of joy, who shares food with sinners

... Christ is the cup of life, who revives the faint-hearted.

Let us receive what we are;
Let us become what we receive.

The body of Christ.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

We thank You, God, our Creator, for Word and Sacrament, through which we receive Your Son, the true Bread of Heaven. Nourish the call you have planted within us, that our lives may bear fruit for your purpose and bring hope to your world. As we go from this table, may we remember that you are the God who “Water You turned into wine,” still transforming ordinary lives by extraordinary grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Song

The Summons (v4)

Blessing

Go now, and do not let God's call lie waiting,
but receive it with joy and let it bear fruit in your lives.

May God strengthen you for the divine purpose;
May Christ Jesus sow the Word deeply within your hearts;
And may the Holy Spirit bear abundant fruit through your lives,
so that you may serve with hope, love and peace.

Amen.