

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

- ¹⁰ 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,
¹¹ 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.
- ¹² 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.
- ¹³ 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.

Psalm: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

- [¹ You are to be praised, O I God, in Zion; to you shall vows I be fulfilled.
² **To you, the one I who answers prayer, to you all I flesh shall come.**
³ Our sins are strong- I er than we are, but you blot out I our transgressions.
⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your I courts to dwell there!**
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness I of your temple.
⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of I our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans I far away.
⁶ **You make firm the mountains I by your power; you are girded a- I bout with might.**
⁷ You still the roaring I of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor I of the peoples.
⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your I marvelous signs;**
you make the dawn and the dusk to I sing for joy.]
⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is I full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide I for the earth.
¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth I out the ridges;**
with heavy rain you soften the ground and I bless its increase.
¹¹ You crown the year I with your goodness, and your paths over- I flow with plenty.
¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be I rich for grazing, and the hills be I clothed with joy.**
¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak them- I selves with grain; let them shout for I joy and sing.

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 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, 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. 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. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 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, then the body is dead because of sin, but 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 Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*** Gospel Acclamation (all singing...)**

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

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

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples sow the seed of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: 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 a 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 If you have ears, hear!"

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 this age 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Service Announcements – July 12, 2026

Book Club – re-scheduled for today, at 10:30.

Community Dinner - Our next Community Dinner is Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and come enjoy an evening of food and fellowship.

Thrift Store – An organizational meeting about the Thrift Store will be held Sunday, July 19, 2026, at 10:30. Join us!

Welcome Center – Thank you to those of you who volunteered to help with the Welcome Center. The calendar is filled with volunteers until July. If you would like to help, you may sign the volunteer sheet that is on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

Mission Support – We are excited to announce that the Buckners (Steve & Debbie) will be joining St. Luke’s in worship on July 26th. We would like to collect any of the following for them to take back to Honduras:

1. One yard lengths of material (Debbie has sewing classes and they make pillow cases, aprons, and quilts)
2. Kids socks - varying sizes (she suggested the funny ones at Dollar Tree)
3. Beanie Babies for Christmas stocking stuffers
4. Individual numbers candles for birthday cakes
5. Small puzzles or board games to be used for birthday presents

Thank you for your generosity and support! Please put donations in the office if brought in before the Flea market.

Barry Isett’s 90th Birthday Celebration - Jennifer Isett is planning a gathering to celebrate Barry Isett’s 90th birthday on August 1st, between 2 and 4 PM. His actual birthday is July 28th. She has reserved the sunroom at Brandywine Living (1133 Black Rock Road, Phoenixville, PA 19460) and would love for congregation members to stop by and wish him a happy birthday anytime within that window.

Redner’s Tapes - Do you grocery shop at Redner's? Using your "save-a-tape" card and turning in your receipt at St Luke's earns us 1% of receipt totals. It also earns you gas/food discounts. This is an easy way to help yourself and St. Luke's missions. All receipts must be originals, not reprints or copies. Contact Doug Killough at 610-390-7127 with questions and concerns.

PRAYER REQUESTS – July 12, 2026

Members Of Saint Luke's Church

Rosemarie Bliss, Joyce Brothers, Spencer Brothers, Gail Faust, Lily Greer, Barry Isett, Merrill Mest, Judy Moyer, Dan Pulcher, Robert Pulcher, Chris Quigg, Roger Rhoads, Nancy Schodle, Ron Sekellick, David Semmens, Jeff & Julene Steigelmann, Henry Stetler, Mike Way, Carol Welch, Stewart Young

Friends Of Saint Luke's Church

Aaron, Brandon
Sons of Chris Quigg

Gen Adams
Great-grandson of Judy Hunsberger

Glenn Argue
Friend of Doug & Sharon Killough

Chris Bean, & mother, Barbara
Friends of St. Luke's

Beth & family
Friend of Carol & Joe Langton

Angela Boyer
Daughter of Audrey Reinhart

Rose Brendlinger
Friend of Merlyn Jordan

Lois Brownell
Sister of Doug Killough

Chris Campbell
Friend of Rob Bickelman

Chris & Shaina & daughter, Charlotte
Friends of Brendan Greer

Garrett Coyne
Friend of Ian Kratz

Dawn Curran
Friend of Kristin Bauer

Diane Davidheiser
Friend of Brenda Foose

Corey Delong, Heidi Delong
Friends of Jerry & Merlyn Jordan

Mary Doughty
Sister of Peggy Brendlinger

Brian & Diane Eyes
Friends of Barry Mertz

Jackie
Sister of Kay Badman

Joan
Friend of Pat & Dick

Dan Hogan
Friend of Rob Bickelman

Ken & Marie Hunsberger
Stepson & his wife of Judy Hunsberger

Grant & Nancy Karsner
Friends of Dennis & Gail Faust

Kimberly (Krupp) Keim
Step-sister of Brenda Foose

Sandi Kelly
Friend of St. Luke's

Sue Labbe & family
Aunt of Nicole Greer

Lila Lundborg
Sister of Jerry Jordan

Linda McLaughlin
Friend of Carol Langton

Jim Miller & family
Nephew of Carol Welch

Michael & Rita Natalini
Friends of Rob & Paula Bickelman

Tim Overholtzer
Brother-in-law of Pat Stonerook

Jim & Holly Parmer
Sister & brother-in-law of Gwen Semmens

Wayne Rachel & little Dax
Nephew of Barry Mertz

Scott Randolph
Friend of Rob Bickelman

David Renninger
Sexton at St. Luke's

Dennis Ritchie
Requested by Doug & Sharon Killough

Calvin Dietrich Savage
Grandson of Dennis & Gail Faust

Chris Slater
Friend of Rob & Paula Bickelman

Wendy Speilman
Friend of Deneen Kratz

Lauren Weaver
Daughter-in-law of Barry Mertz

Persons In Military Service

Joseph P. Breidor, John P Carmelo, IV, Lt. Darby Driscoll, Capt. Ian Driscoll, Ens. Leah Duff, Jared Kirk, JD & his Unit, Greg Kunkle, Andrew Matsko, Guy Row, Kevin Row, Preston Schoenly, Corey Stonerook, Philip Washington

Prayer Ministry: Gwen Semmens is the Prayer Ministry Coordinator. Please call Gwen (215-872-1046) or send an email (hawksmer@comcast).