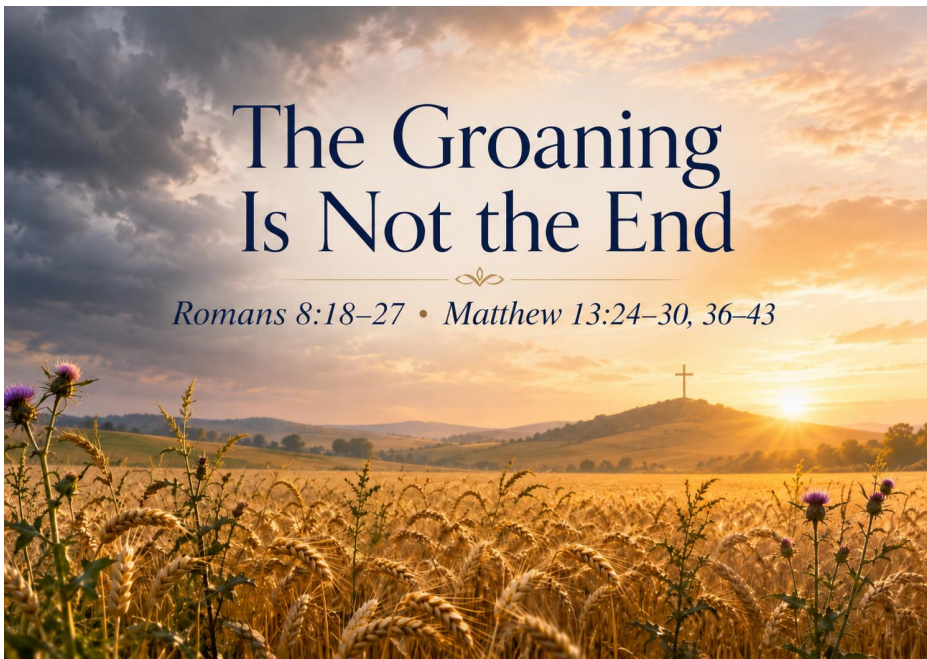




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
The 8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026 10am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER
HIS SANCTUARY, *PLEASE SIT QUIETLY*, PRAY, AND READ
THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER
TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**



***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info***

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – We believe that Christ's body and blood are truly present in Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Scripture also teaches that we are to examine ourselves before receiving, so that we do not receive the body and blood of Christ in an unworthy manner and thereby bring spiritual harm or judgment upon ourselves. Therefore, God calls us to sincere confession of sin, ongoing repentance, faith in Christ's death and resurrection, and forgiving love toward one another. If you are a baptized believer who trusts in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, believes that Christ's body and blood are truly given in this Sacrament, and has examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor Rennie if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the "individual" and "common" cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby ("Narthex")

For Children – Children's Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – The whole creation groans beneath the effects of sin. Bodies weaken, relationships suffer, evil remains, and even Christians sometimes find themselves without words to pray. Yet our groaning is not a sign that God has abandoned us. Jesus Christ entered this suffering creation, bore our sin and judgment on the cross, and rose bodily from the grave. The Holy Spirit now helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us according to God's will. As we await the resurrection of our bodies and the restoration of creation, Jesus assures us that evil will not remain forever. The harvest is coming, Christ will gather His people safely into His kingdom, and the glory to be revealed will far surpass the sufferings of this present age. The groaning is real—but the groaning is not the end.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – Way Maker

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

**CHORUS: (You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God
that is who You are**

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord **CHORUS**

TAG: That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are
That is who You are

BRIDGE: Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working **CHORUS**

CCLI Song # 7115744
Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu
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P Even when we do not see what God is doing, and even when we do not feel His presence as strongly as we would like, He remains faithful. He has not abandoned His creation or His people. He comes among us now through His Word and promises, and so we begin in the name into which we were baptized.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Psalm 31:24; Hebrews 10:23; Psalm 39:7

P Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
C **all you who wait for the LORD!**

P Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
C **for He who promised is faithful.**

P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
C **My hope is in You.**

Crown Him with Many Crowns



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
 2 Crown Him the vir - gin's Son, The God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,
 4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
 Whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won Which now His brow a-dorn:
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
 Fruit of the mys - tic rose, Yet of that rose the stem, The
 No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
 His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
 Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, The babe of Beth - le - hem.
 down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
 Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Confession and Absolution

P "I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope." Let us confess our sins to
 God our Father, trusting in His mercy through Jesus Christ.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God,

C We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have been impatient when You called us to wait, fearful when You called us to trust, and quick to see the sins of others while excusing our own. We have failed to love You with our whole heart and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We cannot free ourselves from sin, suffering, and death. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us, renew us, and lead us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may live in faith and hope as we await the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and, for His sake, forgives you all your sins. Jesus Christ bore the judgment your sin deserved and rose bodily from the grave. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His command and authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 6

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me;

you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,

and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.
⁸Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalms 119:57–64

HETH

⁵⁷The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.
⁵⁸**I entreat your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.**
⁵⁹When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to your testimonies;
⁶⁰**I hasten and do not delay
to keep your commandments.**
⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.
⁶²**At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your just and righteous decrees.**
⁶³I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.
⁶⁴**The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes!**

Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the

creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 13:35b

P Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;

C **I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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

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

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Sermon – The Groaning is NOT the End based on Romans 8:18–27 • Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

1. The Whole Creation Groans

- God created the world good.
- Sin, suffering, and death were not part of His original design.
- Before we become preoccupied with the weeds around us, God's Word calls us to examine the sin growing within us.

2. We Are Called to Be Faithful, Not the Savior

- Christians are not called into apathy.
- We speak God's truth, protect the wounded, correct the erring, and warn the unrepentant.
- But the final judgment belongs to Christ alone.
- We take the next faithful step and entrust what we cannot see or control to Him.

3. The Spirit Helps Us in Our Weakness

- Faith is not emotionless, but our assurance does not rest upon our feelings or spiritual experiences.
- We do not need to manufacture a spiritual experience to prove that God is present.
- When our words run out, the Spirit's intercession does not fail.
- God gives us certainty through His Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper.

4. Christ Entered Our Groaning

- Jesus sighed, wept, suffered, and bore the judgment our sin deserved.
- He entered death and rose again on the third day.
- Christian hope is not escape from the body.
- Our hope is the resurrection and redemption of our bodies.

5. The Harvest Is Coming

- The coming harvest is both a warning and a comfort.
- Evil will not continue forever.
- Christ will gather His people safely into His kingdom.
- Our hope does not depend upon the size of our strength. It depends upon the strength of Christ.

6. Remember – We are baptized. Our sins are forgiven. The Father hears us. The Son has redeemed us. The Spirit helps us. The groaning is real, but the groaning is not the end.

Apostles' Creed

- P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at **www.RisenChrist.info** – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

- P O Holy Spirit, where our words fall short, You intercede for Your church. Even so, let us gather our hearts, praying for the people of God around the world and for all who suffer in this and every place:
- For believers who face difficulty and danger, especially because of their faith, that their lives might be protected and their souls preserved, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For Your church around the world, fractured by ignorance, error, and pride, that the Bride of Christ might be united in truth and active in love, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P For all marriages, purposed as an illustration of Christ's sacrifice and faithfulness, that couples would be safeguarded from temptation and their love increased despite distance or difficulty, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For those in the grips of anxiety or depression, slaves to debt or poverty, or suffering from loss or loneliness, that the fullness of Christ would meet all their needs, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For all who suffer physically, especially those among us: that according to Your gracious will You would guide their doctors, bless their treatments, relieve their suffering, grant healing, and sustain them in the certain hope of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For those who serve our communities, often in thankless roles of repairing our roads, keeping records, providing for the poor, and administering justice, let us pray to the Lord:
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P O Holy Spirit, we trust You to perfect the prayers we have spoken and our unspoken prayers too deep for words. Search our hearts, assure us of Your constant presence, and remind us that God's gracious will toward His saints shall be done in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
 2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
 3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
 4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
 ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
 plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
 guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Benediction

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 T give you peace.
 C **Amen.**

CONGREGATION MEMBERS

PLEASE REMAIN HERE FOR AN IMPORTANT VOTERS' MEETING

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.
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