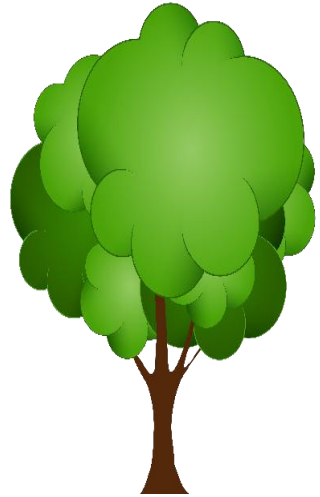


**NORTH RIVERDALE AND NEW HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCHES
WORSHIP IN THE PARK**

July 19, 2025



word of life

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?” (Matthew 13:43)

CALL TO WORSHIP (TFF 75)

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

It's your leading that we're needing.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Guide our thinking and our speaking.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Motivate all in their seeking.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Keep us fervent in our witness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Keep us fervent in our witness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Ever grant us zealous fitness.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

A SONG

ISAIAH 44:6-8 (MSG)

⁶⁻⁸ GOD, King of Israel,

your Redeemer, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, says:

“I'm first, I'm last, and everything in between.

I'm the only God there is.

Who compares with me?

Speak up. See if you measure up.
From the beginning, who else has always announced what's coming?
So what is coming next? Anybody want to venture a try?
Don't be afraid, and don't worry:
Haven't I always kept you informed, told you what was going on?
You're my eyewitnesses:
Have you ever come across a God, a real God, other than me?
There's no Rock like me that I know of."

PSALM 86:11-17

¹¹⁻¹⁷ Train me, God, to walk straight;
then I'll follow your true path.

**Put me together, one heart and mind;
then, undivided, I'll worship in joyful fear.**

From the bottom of my heart I thank you, dear Lord;

I've never kept secret what you're up to.

You've always been great toward me—what love!

You snatched me from the brink of disaster!

God, these bullies have reared their heads!

A gang of thugs is after me—

and they don't care a thing about you.

But you, O God, are both tender and kind,

not easily angered, immense in love,

and you never, never quit.

**So look me in the eye and show kindness, give your servant the
strength to go on, save your dear, dear child!**

Make a show of how much you love me

so the bullies who hate me will stand there slack-jawed,

**As you, God, gently and powerfully
put me back on my feet.**

QUESTION: If your life were a plant in a garden, what kind of plant best represents you and why?

MATTHEW 13:24-43 (MSG)

²⁴⁻²⁶ [Jesus] told another story. “God’s kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed weeds [tares] all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the weeds showed up, too.

²⁷ “The farmhands came to the farmer and said, ‘Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn’t it? Where did these weeds come from?’

²⁸ “He answered, ‘Some enemy did this.’

“The farmhands asked, ‘Should we weed out the weeds?’

²⁹⁻³⁰ “He said, ‘No, if you weed the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I’ll instruct the harvesters to pull up the weeds and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.’”

³⁴⁻³⁵ All Jesus did that day was tell stories—a long storytelling afternoon. His storytelling fulfilled the prophecy:

I will open my mouth and tell stories;

I will bring out into the open

things hidden since the world’s first day.

³⁶ Jesus dismissed the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, “Explain to us that story of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷⁻³⁹ So he explained. “The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the weeds are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels.

⁴⁰⁻⁴³ “The picture of weeds pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the weeds from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to complain to



high heaven, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

A SONG

PRAYERS FOR EACH OTHER AND OUR COMMUNITY

OFFERING

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

A SONG

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the hands and feet of Christ.
Thanks be to God.