

Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10–13

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there but water 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 shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² “For you shall go out in joy

and be led forth in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall break forth into singing,

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 make a name for the LORD,

an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Historical Context

Isaiah 55 concludes the Book of Consolation, written to encourage God's people during the Babylonian exile. The prophet assures discouraged exiles that God's promises have not failed. Just as rain and snow accomplish their purpose by nourishing the earth, God's Word always fulfills His saving purposes. The passage ends with a joyful vision of creation celebrating the restoration of God's people.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 10–11 – God's Word always accomplishes His purpose.

Verse 12 – God's people go out with joy and peace.

Verse 13 – Creation reflects God's everlasting redemption.

Theological Themes

- The power of God's Word
- God's faithfulness
- Redemption and restoration
- Joy in salvation

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:12–17

English Standard Version Scripture Text

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Historical Context

Romans 8 marks the climax of Paul's teaching on life in Christ. Addressing believers in Rome, Paul explains that through the Holy Spirit Christians are adopted into God's family. In the Roman world, adoption granted full legal standing and inheritance, making Paul's image especially powerful for both Jewish and Gentile believers.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 12–13 – Live by the Spirit rather than the flesh.

Verse 14 – Those led by the Spirit are God's children.

Verses 15–16 – The Spirit confirms believers' adoption.

Verse 17 – God's children are heirs with Christ.

Theological Themes

- Life in the Spirit
- Adoption into God's family
- Assurance of salvation
- Heirs with Christ

Concluding Reflection

Isaiah and Paul proclaim God's unfailing faithfulness. God's Word accomplishes His purposes, and through Christ believers are welcomed into God's family. These truths invite Christians to live with confidence, joy, and hope.

Thoughts for Consideration

1. How does Isaiah's picture of rain and snow illustrate the power of God's Word?
2. What encourages you to trust God's promises even when answers seem delayed?
3. What does it mean to be adopted into God's family?
4. How does the Holy Spirit assure believers of God's love?
5. How can you live this week as an heir with Christ?