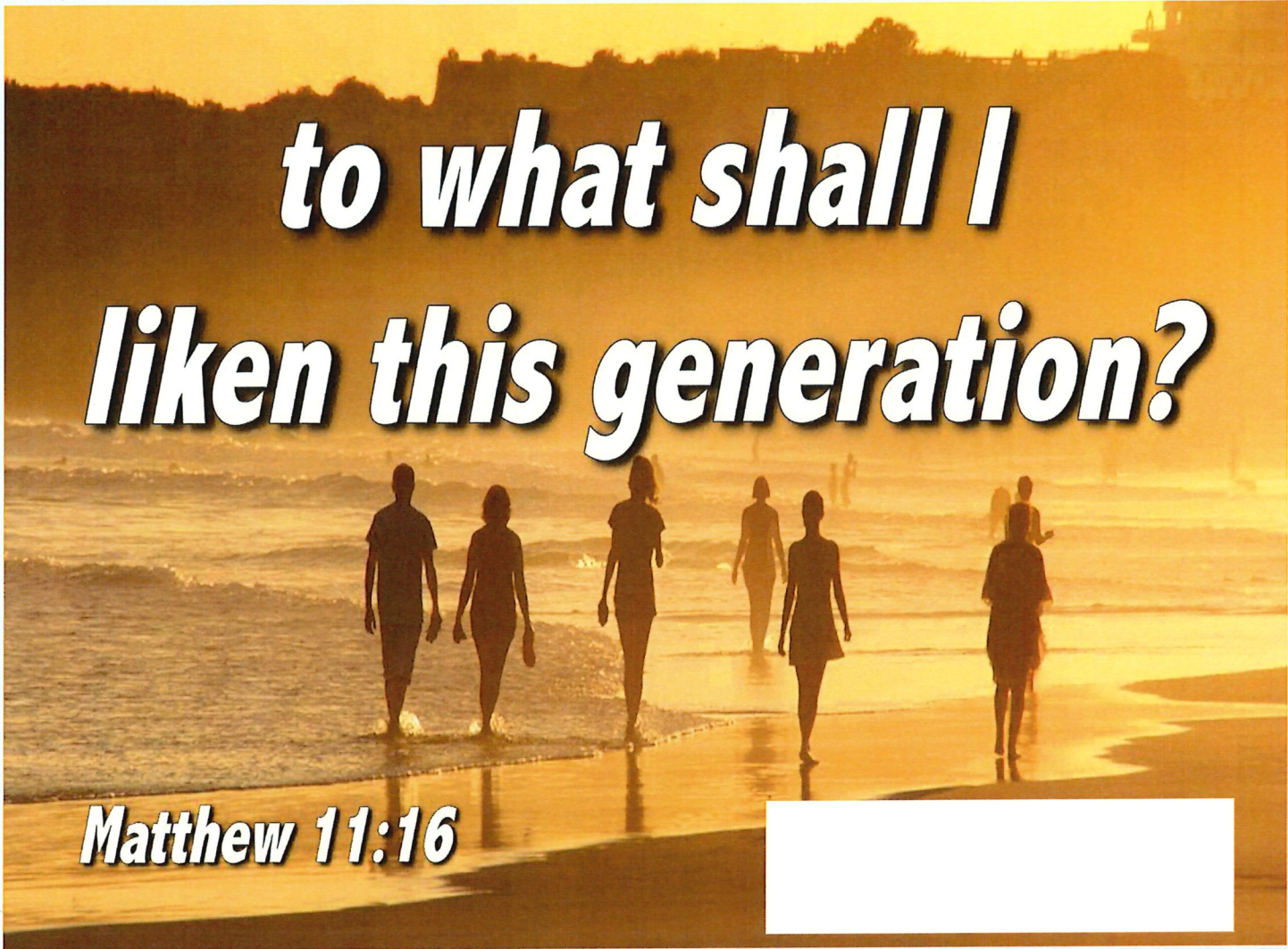




***to what shall I
liken this generation?***

Matthew 11:16

First Lutheran Church

July 5, 2026

Pentecost 6

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

MATERNA

Matthew H. Corl

Fanfare on America the Beautiful

GATHERING

The assembly stands.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

AM: The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

PM: Let us confess our sin to God.

The assembly kneels.

PM: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

PM: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG

COME TO ME, ALL PILGRIMS THIRSTY

ELW # 777



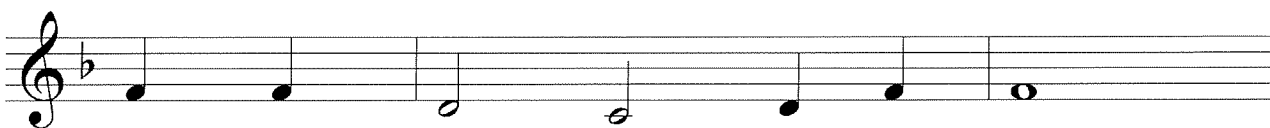
1 "Come to me, all pil - grims thirst - y;
2 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners;
3 "Come to me, a - ban - doned, or - phan - ed;



drink the wa - ter I will give.
leave be - hind your guilt and shame.
lone - ly ways no long - er roam.



If you knew what gift I of - fer,
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion,
Come and take the gift I of - fer,



you would come to me and live."
turn to me, I call your name.
let me make in you my home."



Je-sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun-tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra-cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. *Refrain*



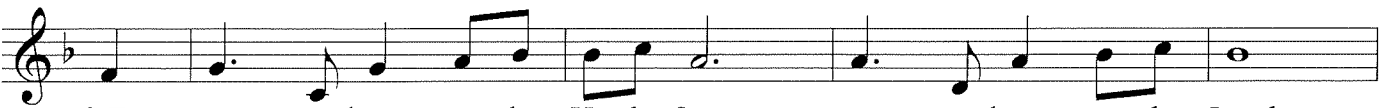
2 Lord Je - sus Christ on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. *Refrain*



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

FIRST READING

ZECHARIAH 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

R: A reading from Zechariah, the ninth chapter.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

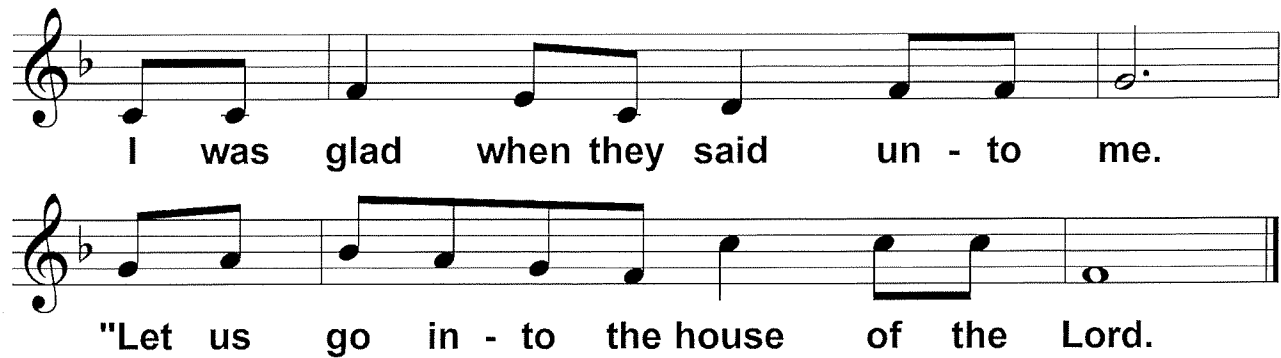
¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Cantor will sing the verses:

- ¹ I was glad when they | said unto me, "Let us go into the house | of the Lord."
- ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. **Refrain**
- ⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you. **Refrain**
- ⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good." **Refrain**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 7:15-25

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

R: A reading from Romans, the seventh chapter.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members

another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thank be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Cantor will sing the verse: Blessed are you, Lord of ^l heav'n and earth;* you have revealed these ^l things to infants.
(Matthew 11:25)

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

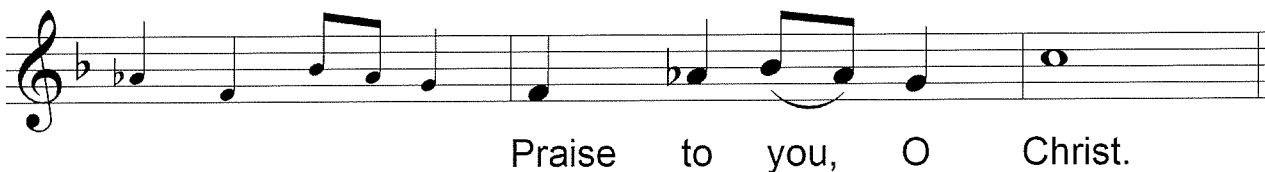
PM: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came

eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." ²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades." "For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you." ²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

PASTOR CHRISTIAN DITTMAR

The assembly stands.



1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

NICENE CREED

PM: In trust and hope we profess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM: God our unity, grant us wisdom when our yokes are too heavy,
that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest.

Each petition concludes:

PM: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

PM: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness,
we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

PEACE

PM: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

BATTLE HYMN

Charles W. Ore

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vine and winepresses,
For our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion,
Serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PM: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PM: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

PM: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

PM: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

PM: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

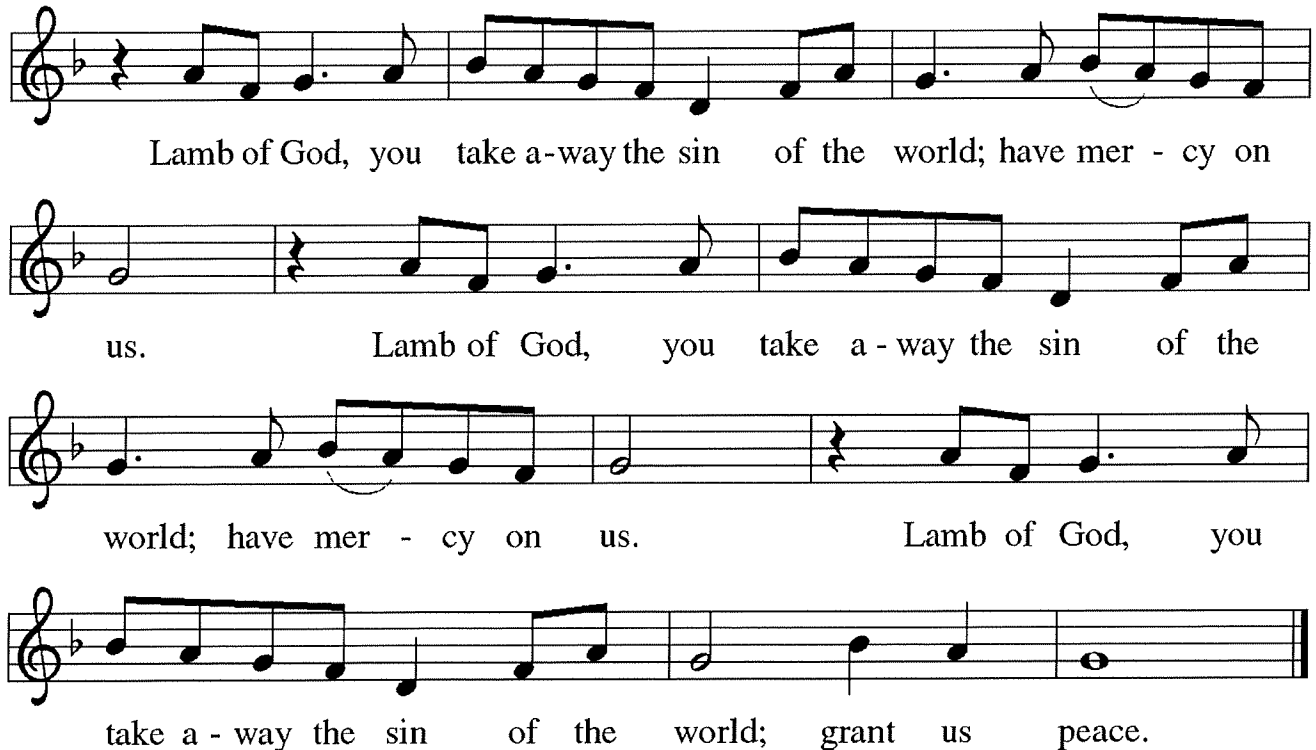
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION

Communion is distributed in two manners

† *You may commune in your pews.*

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

*The presiding minister will share a blessing,
all communing in-place will commune together.*

† *You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.*

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PM: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION SONG

ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY

ELW # 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

The assembly stands.

TABLE BLESSING

PM: The blood and body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

AM: Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

PM: We pray together.

C: Oh, God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

**We are grateful for your goodness and we ask now for confidence
to go forward into the future.**

**Bless our community of faith, bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us
through this time of transition.**

We thank you for the wisdom you show us.

Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.

**Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation.**

Amen.

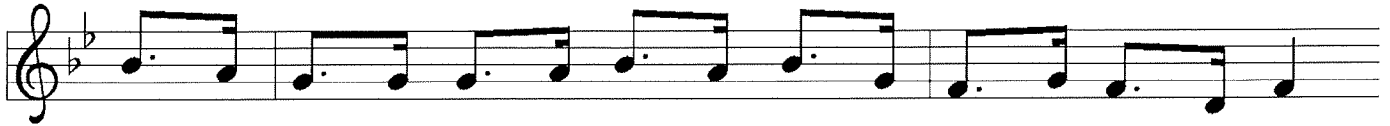
BLESSING

PM: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal,
and hold you today and always.

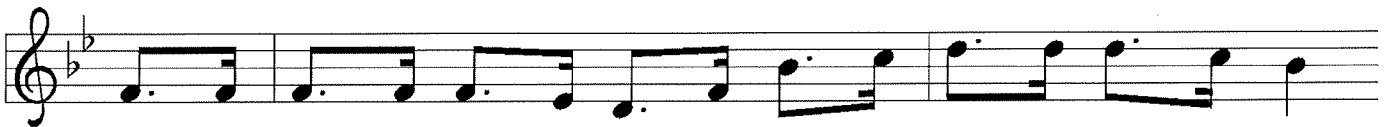




1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.

Refrain

Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

DISMISSAL

AM: Heaven has come near.
 PM: Go, share the good news!
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

NATIONAL HYMN

Mark Thewes

God of Our Fathers

Events in Review

Sunday **July 5**

10:00 AM Pentecost 6

Monday **July 6**

10:00AM Bible Study at Willows

Tuesday **July 7**

Wednesday **July 8**

9:00AM Piece Corp

6:00PM Property Com.

Thursday **July 9**

Friday **July 10**

Saturday **July 11**



Don't forget to fill out the survey.

Your input is very important for
the future of our church.

Now is the time to express yourself.



If you have a prayer request for today,
please raise your hand during announce-
ments and a host will give you a green
card to fill out.

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the
Information Board in the hallway. The time is
before and after Church Service. Approximately 4
dozen cookies are needed each week.



Next Week

Sunday **July 12**

10:00 AM Pentecost 7

Monday **July 13**

10:00 AM Bible Study at Willows

Tuesday **July 14**

Wednesday **July 15**

5:30PM Council Mtg

Thursday **July 16**

Friday **July 17**

Saturday **July 18**

LAWN MOWER OF THE WEEK

Bob Fruth



Contact Us



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Luise & Ken Zeop

Cantor:

Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera

The Rosses

Host

Janet Zirger

Reader:

Mike Oberlander

Worship Assistant

Rick Greene

Director of Music:

Curtis L. King

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Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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July 5, 2026