



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385  
(219) 462-6660 • [clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org)



Third Sunday of Pentecost  
June 29, 2025

## **We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure\* of faith, grace, and love.

*\* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

### **ABOUT WORSHIP**

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

### **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

### **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

### **RESTROOMS**

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*Prelude & Fugue in C  
(from Eight Short Preludes & Fugues)*

J.S. Bach

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

***p. 94-96 (left column)***

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*


In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin  
to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess**  
**that we are captive to sin**  
**and cannot free ourselves.**  
**We have sinned against you**  
**in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done**  
**and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you**  
**with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved**  
**our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,**  
**have mercy on us.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**so that we may delight in your will**  
**and walk in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake  
God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister  
of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the  Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN ELW #647 *Glorious Things of You are Spoken*



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y  
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -  
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and  
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God! He whose word can - not be bro - ken  
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters,  
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring,  
 mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y,



formed you for his own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges  
 and all fear of want re - move. Who can faint, while such a  
 show - ing that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their  
 I will glo - ry in your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain



found-ed, what can shake your sure re - pose? With sal -  
 riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which,  
 ban - ner light by night and shade by day, safe they  
 plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id



va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.  
 like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.  
 feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.  
 joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: BLAENWERN, William P. Rowlands, 1860–1937

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Crossbound God,  
nothing protects you  
from open sky  
and beckoning grave:  
teach us to leave behind  
the fear that kills what is different,  
our love for what is dead and safe;  
may we set our face like you  
to find our true home,  
our unexpected city of peace,  
your fearless life;  
through Jesus Christ, who will not turn back.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

## **READING: READING: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14**

*Elijah's ministry is finished as he is taken up into heaven, and a new chapter begins as Elisha inherits the mantle and the spirit of his teacher. Like the great prophet Moses before them, both Elijah and Elisha part a body of water through the power of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some

distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

<sup>13</sup> He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

*For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ’s Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*p. 171*

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



## GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

*Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

<sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” <sup>59</sup> To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”



<sup>61</sup> Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

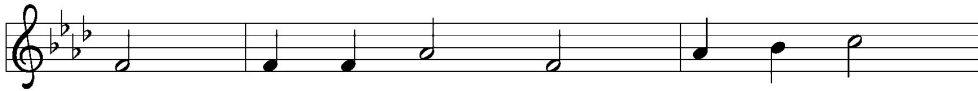
*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #667 *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

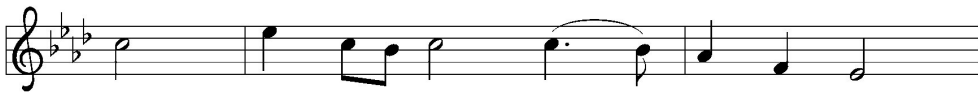
*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



1	“Take	up	your	cross,”	the	Sav - ior	said,
2	Take	up	your	cross;	let	not	its weight
3	Take	up	your	cross,	nor	heed	the shame,
4	Take	up	your	cross	and	fol - low	Christ,



“if	you	would	my	dis -	ci -	ple	be;
per -	vade	your	soul	with	vain	a -	larm;
nor	let	your	fool	ish	heart	re -	bel;
nor	think	till	death	to	lay	it	down;



for -	sake	the	past,	and	come	this	day,
his	strength	shall	bear	your	spir -	it	up,
for	you	the	Lord	en -	dured	the	cross
for	those	who	hum -	bly	bear	the	cross



and	hum -	bly	fol -	low	af -	ter	me.”
sus -	tain	your	heart,	and	nerve	your	arm.
to	save	your	soul	from	death	and	hell.
one	day	will	wear	the	glo -	rious	crown.

## APOSTLES' CREED

p. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS

*Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.*

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of your apostles Peter, Paul, and Thomas, by Catherine Winkworth and John Mason Neale and Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. Bless the lands, people, and churches of Kenya and Tanzania with peace, prosperity, and cooperation for the welfare of all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence. Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries, especially our Stephen Ministry and Caring Visitors. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests.*

*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](https://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](https://clcvalpo.org/app) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](https://clcvalpo.org/app)).*



## **OFFERTORY**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Burkhardt

## OFFERING HYMN ELW #185 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.'

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*p. 172*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## SANCTUS

*p. 173*

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, 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.

## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

*p. 173*

*(pray whichever version you prefer)*

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

## LAMB OF GOD

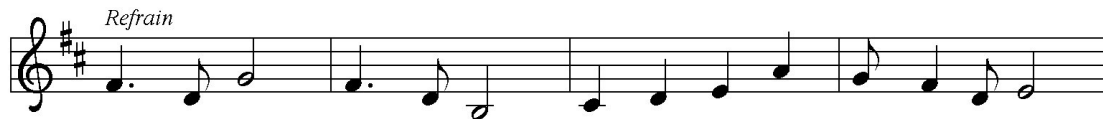
*p. 174*

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, grant us peace.



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
 God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
 Those who seek the Lord will lack noth-ing; taste, and have your fill.  
 Rise to tell God's great-ness for - ev - er, won-drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34  
 Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young  
 Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

ACS #977      *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.  
fruit - less ef - ferts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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Music © 2000 Michael Corzine, admin. Augsburg Fortress



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## INVITATIONS

*The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

## BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN ELW #427      *For All Your Saints, O Lord*



- 1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
- 2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
- 3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
- 4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
- 5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.  
who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.  
learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.  
that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.  
the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

## **DISMISSAL**

*Children: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Kenya, Tanzania**.

#### **We are thankful for:**

- the abundant wildlife, natural resources and people indigenous to these countries and that they are protected, not exploited
- the literacy rate in Kenya, the highest in Africa, and for the schools that churches and their partners support and sustain in both countries
- the faithful witness of the churches in their communities, and in building positive relationships with those of other faiths
- persons and organizations who meet the needs of the hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees from other African countries.

#### **We pray for:**

- greater tolerance between Christians and Muslims as they work together to improve the lives of all people
- youth, that they not succumb to radicalization but are prepared to sustain their lives and communities
- all victims of violence, especially sexual or gender-based violence, and all who are marginalized or excluded from communities
- those who are most vulnerable to climate change and drought, that they may have clean water to drink and for their crops and animals to flourish
- economic growth and trade that benefits all the people.

## **Worship Leaders**

9:30 a.m.

Acolyte

Maya Bull

Lector

Karl Reichardt

Prayer Assistant

Paige Reichardt

Communion Assistants

Bob Lockett, Betty Lockett  
Jeri Simms, Amy Knauff

Ushers

Tim Sutherland

Sound/Light

Tony Reinhold

Video/Livestream

Pastors

Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.  
Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries

Brian Bartusch

Communion Baker

Marilyn McGawn

## **COMMEMORATIONS Week of June 29**

### **June 29**

#### **Peter and Paul, Apostles**

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.

### **July 1**

#### **Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators**

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.

### **July 3**

#### **Thomas, Apostle**

Though frequently remembered as “doubting Thomas,” this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as “my Lord and my God!” By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas’s celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

## Moving in Love

Participating in divisive discourse has become pervasive in this culture, particularly on social media platforms. Conversations regarding religion and politics can swiftly escalate into full-blown battles, and it can be challenging to remain cordial and reflective when confronted with false dichotomies and personal attacks around social issues.

In today's gospel reading, the siblings James and John quickly want to retaliate with violence and aggression against the village that rejects Jesus. However, he rebukes them for their fury. The brothers appear to have disregarded the fact that when Jesus commissioned them earlier with the other disciples to spread the good news, he instructed them that if they encountered rejection, they should merely "shake the dust off [their] feet as a testimony against [the rejectors]" and move on (Luke 9:5). Dusting off their feet was not only for the sake of nonengagement but also for their safety. What good would the news be if every rejection led to violence and war?

It's not easy to dust off our feet and move on when we are engaged in passionate debates. But how do we translate this action into a life-giving practice of discipleship? We practice this spirit of reconciliation during worship when extending peace to our neighbor. We engage in loving discourse when we pray and share a meal around Jesus' table.

Our engagement as disciples is steeped in the reminder that Jesus came to bring abundant life and love into the world. Finding ways to stay connected to one another while balancing the moments that call for dusting off one's feet and moving on is not simple or easy. Gatherings and connections within and outside of worship allow us to practice God's abundant grace and mercy, whether by stepping away or by moving in close for the sake of care and love for neighbor and self.

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