

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



June 27, 2021

10:00 a.m.

WE WELCOME BYRON GREENE.

INTRODUCTION

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.


P God, our provider,

C help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

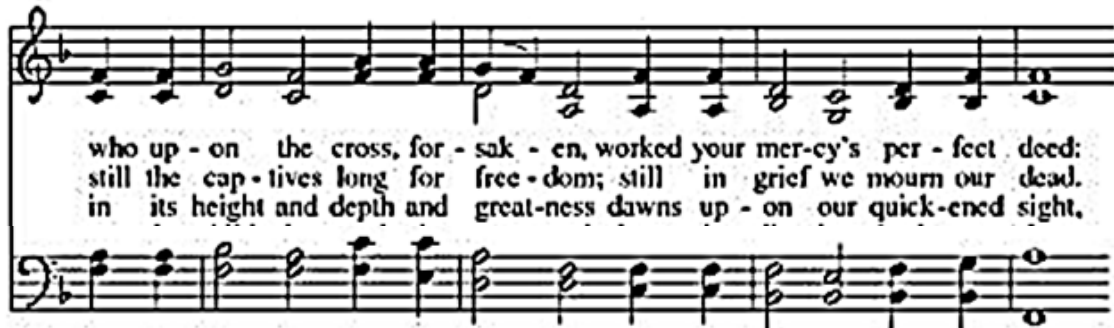
P Beloved people of God:

In Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

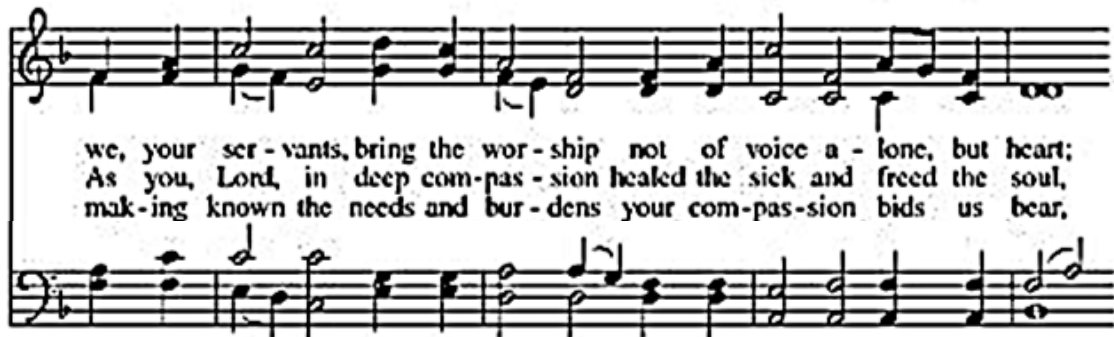
C Amen.



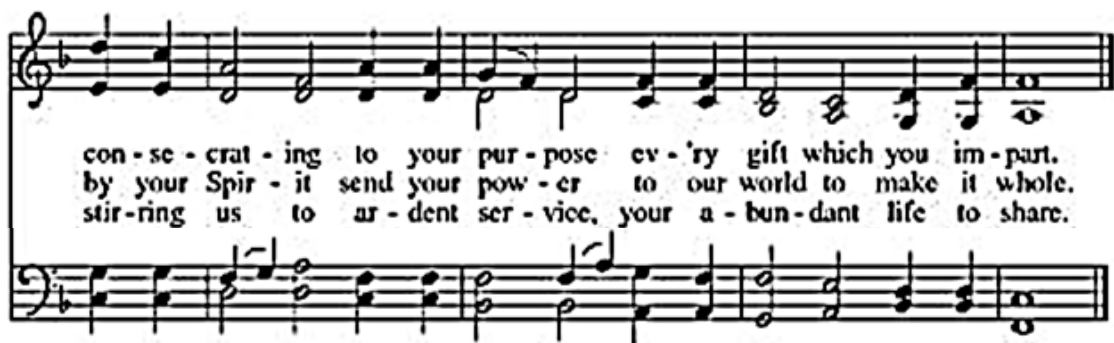
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.

GREETING

P 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. | Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Lamentations 3:22-33

The book of Lamentations is one of our most important sources of information about the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 BCE. Though the people admit that God's judgment was just, today's reading declares a fervent trust that God will not leave them forever.

²²The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

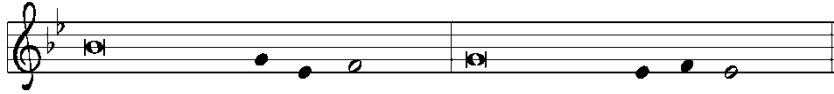
²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. ²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. ²⁷It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth, ²⁸to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it, ²⁹to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet be hope), ³⁰to give one's cheek to the smiter, and be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not reject forever. ³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; ³³for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 30 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lift- | ed me up
and have not let my enemies triumph | over me.

C ²**O LORD my God, I cried | out to you,
and you restored | me to health.**

L ³You brought me up, O LORD, | from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down | to the grave.

C ⁴**Sing praise to the LORD, | all you faithful;
give thanks in ho- | ly remembrance.**

L ⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor | lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes | in the morning.

C ⁶**While I felt se- | cure, I said,
"I shall never | be disturbed.**

L ⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong | as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was | filled with fear.

C ⁸**I cried to | you, O LORD;
I pleaded with | my Lord, saying,**

L ⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down | to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or de- | clare your faithfulness?

C ¹⁰**Hear, O LORD, and have mer- | cy upon me;
O LORD, | be my helper."**

L ¹¹You have turned my wailing | into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed | me with joy.

C ¹²Therefore my heart sings to you | without ceasing;
O LORD my God, I will give you | thanks forever.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C Amen.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to participate in the collection his churches are organizing for the Christians in Jerusalem. He presents Jesus as an example of selfless stewardship and reminds them that Christians have received abundantly so that they can share abundantly.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage was considered ritually unclean and treated as an outcast. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in his power to heal and bring life out of death.

P The holy gospel according to Mark, the fifth chapter.

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

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

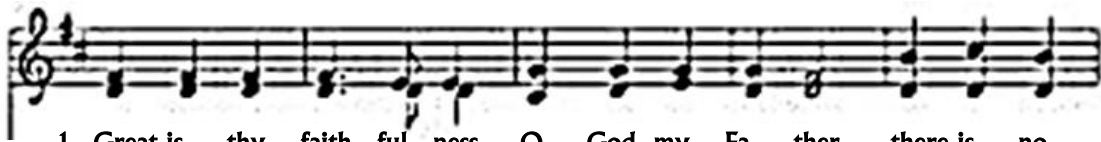
³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

P The gospel of the Lord.

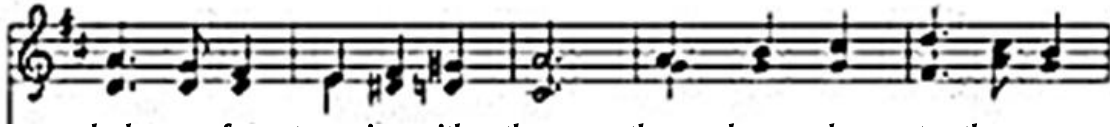
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

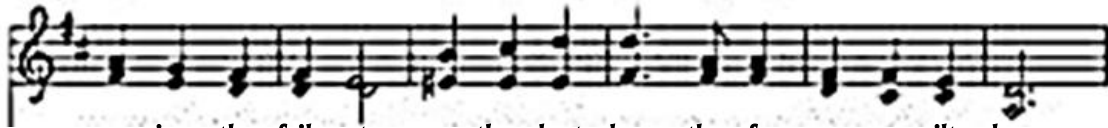
HYMN OF THE DAY **733** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1, 2)*



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - ed not thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in

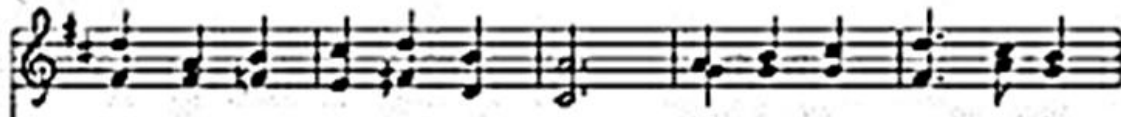


pas - sions they fail not, as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.

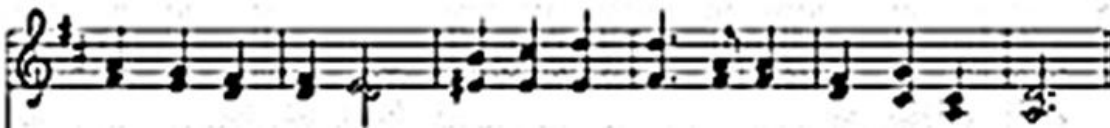
Refrain



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.

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

A God of hope, the ministry of your church extends across borders, from nearby neighbors to far and distant countries. Accompany all those who labor eagerly in service of the gospel, that through your good news all might experience transformation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Almighty God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food. Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Righteous God, we pray for nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. We pray for those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick. Surround them with your unwavering presence. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for this assembly and all those gathered together in worship. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Let us offer other prayers and thanksgivings, including particular needs and requests for healing, either silently or aloud...Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you. Envelop them in your love, that we may be reunited with one another in the last days. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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 Dandelion USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C 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.

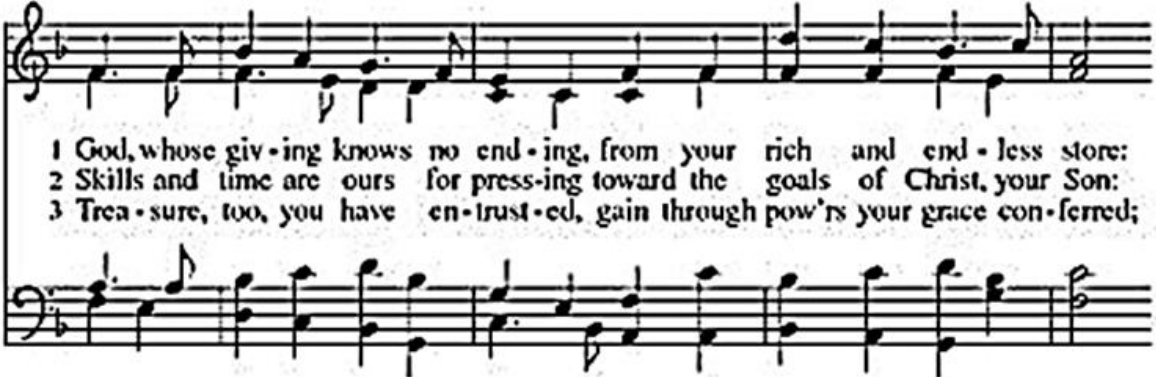
+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.


ANNOUNCEMENTS



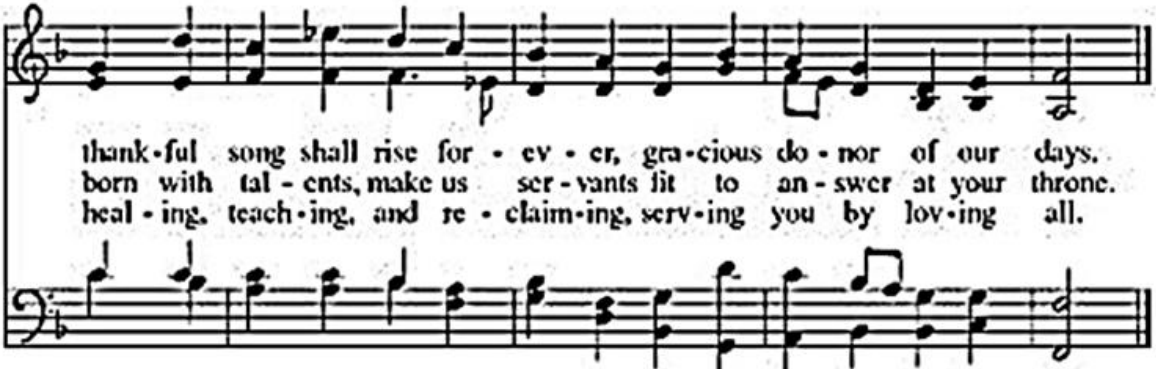
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store;
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,




thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants lit to an - swer at your throne.
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

DISMISSAL

- P We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:
C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**
- P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

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**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO
THE GLORY OF GOD
BY GLADYS KANE
AND FOR PRAYERS FOR SAFE TRAVELS
FOR ALL MY FAMILY AS WE ATTEND
A REUNION IN JULY.**

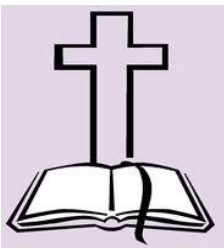
Calendar for June 27 - July 4

June	27	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
	30	Wed.		NO Bible study (online)
July	4	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship , Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**Pastor Tom is on vacation through July 6.*

Next Sunday’s Readings, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Job 38:1-11](#)
[Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32](#)
[2 Corinthians 6:1-13](#)
[Mark 4:35-41](#)



Serving	June 27	July 4
Presiding		
Preaching	Byron Greene	Ron Hartung
Assisting Minister	Beth Alexander	Jennifer Dritt
Lector	Vince Muchuruza	Vivien Muchuruza
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander Erin Kenney	Audrey Post Billie Reardon
Counters	Margaret Bowers Susan Warren	Audrey Post Billie Reardon
Announcements		

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

For health and protection: For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

For prisoners: Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

Other concerns: Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

Church concerns: St. Stephen's Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

World concerns: For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Now that we are back to in-person worship service, we are in need of more worship assistants, mainly Cup Ministers. If you are interested, please contact Lori in the office.

PASTOR TOM will be out from June 24-July 6. Pr. Jenn of Grace Lutheran Church will be providing pastoral care during his absence. She may be reached at 570-764-5333 or email: pastorjenn@rocketmail.com.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2021: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2021 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK: Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.