

Sunday, August 2, 2026

Summer Series #8

*Caught between a Rock and a Hard Place
(Jesus' Ethics)*



Ringling of Bell

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

P: 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.

GATHERING HYMN *Gather Us In* ELW 532

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away— here in this place the new light is shing, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: O LORD God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care.

C: Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 10:12-22

The Essence of the Law

¹²"So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to keep the commandments of the LORD and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. ¹⁴Although heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the LORD your God, the earth with all that is in it, ¹⁵yet the LORD set his heart in love on your ancestors alone and chose you, their descendants after them, out of all the peoples, as it is today. ¹⁶Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. ¹⁷For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, ¹⁸who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the

strangers, providing them food and clothing. ¹⁹ You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God; him you shall serve; to him you shall hold fast; and by his name you shall swear. ²¹ He is your praise; he is your God who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen. ²² Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in heaven.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 9:1-10 *We read responsively*

L: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

C: I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

L: When my enemies turned back, they stumbled and perished before you.

C: For you have maintained my just cause; you have sat on the throne giving righteous judgment.

L: You have rebuked the nations; you have destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name forever and ever.

C: The enemies have vanished in everlasting ruins; their cities you have rooted out; the very memory of them has perished.

L: But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for judgment.

C: He judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with equity.

L: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

C: And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 2:1-6

Christ Our Advocate

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

³ Now by this we know that we have come to know him, if we obey his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; ⁵ but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says, "I abide in him," ought to walk in the same way as he walked.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31-46

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Judgement of the Nations

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,' ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?' ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & SONG

SERMON *Pastor D.J. Chatelaine*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION:

"You are invited to bring your painted rock to add to the display in the front of the sanctuary."

HYMN OF THE DAY

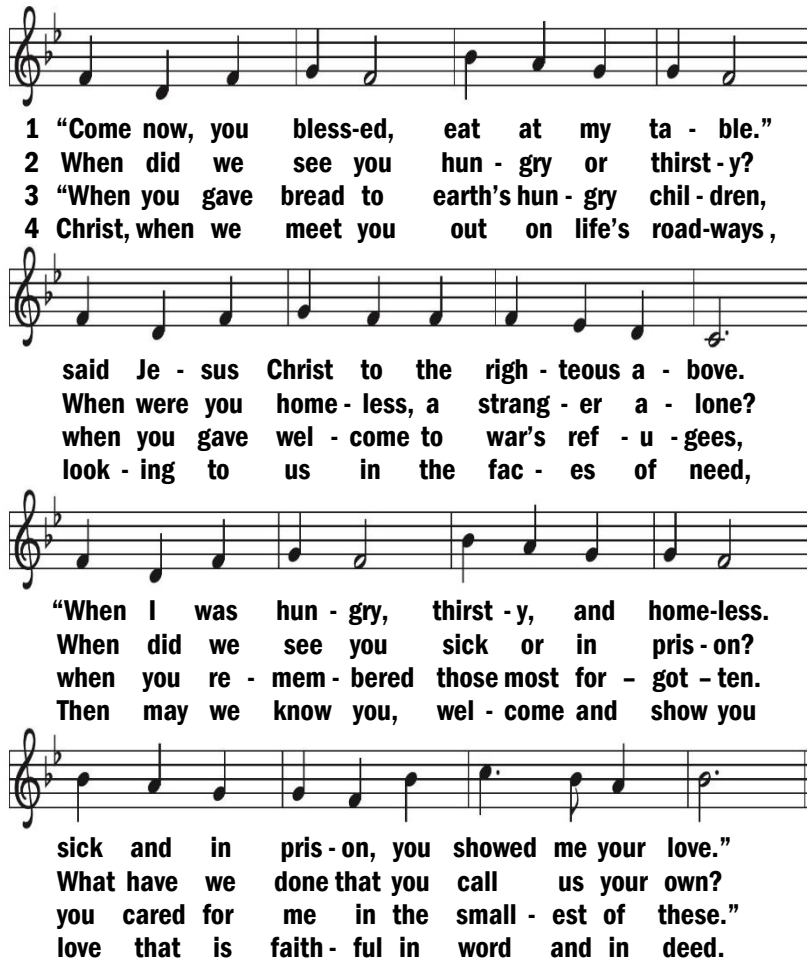
ACS 1059

Come Now You Blessed

SEE NEXT PAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Now You Blessed All Creation Sings 1059



1 "Come now, you bless-ed, eat at my ta - ble."
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road-ways,
said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,
"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less.
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten.
Then may we know you, wel - come and show you
sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these."
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 © GIA Publications Inc
Music: Emily R. Brink, b. 1940 © 1994 Faith Alive Resources
TUNE: MATTHEW 25 Meter: 5 5 10 D

◆ APOSTLES' CREED

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

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

PLEASE BE SEATED

OFFERING—OFFERTORY—GLOBE OFFERING

Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe at the front of the church

◆ OFFERING SONG vs.2 ACS 1024

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand
SING REFRAIN BEFORE & AFTER VERSE

REFRAIN

Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand, He's the
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.

VERSE 1

² It is not the work of my hands that has
washed a-way all my sins. I'm re-deemed and all of my
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

C: Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN ELW 767

Lord Take My Hand & Lead Me > >

- 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way; direct, protect, and feed me from day to day. Without your grace and favor I go astray; so take my hand, O Savior, and lead the way.
- 2 Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear; for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near. Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe, for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.
- 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come, I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home, then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend! So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
- C: 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. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen.

◆ SENDING SONG ELW 774

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Ring of Bell

DISMISSAL

- L: Heaven has come near.
Go, share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—Rev. D.J. Chatelaine
ORGAN/PIANO—Tammy Hanson
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—
GREETER(S)—Wayne & Marie Spidahl
C/SET UP—Paul & Sharon Rechtzigel
C/SERVERS—
COFFEE—
TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,
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PUBLIC DOMAIN HYMNS: *LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS*

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OL/SKU # 00031 *Gather Us In* #532

OL/SKU # 20653 *Come Now You Blessed* ACS 1059

OL/SKU # 73021 *Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand* ACS 1024

OL/SKU # 05481 *Lord Take My Hand & Lead Me* ELW 767

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Jennifer Lurfald, Jim Fountaine, Dax Eggert,
Larry Walker, Tim Emerson, John Maki,
Marilyn Schaper, Trudy Johnson, Jay Fogelson.*

CALENDAR

SUN AUG 2

9 am WORSHIP
10 am Coffee
10:15 *Revelation Bible Study*
4-6 pm **POOL PARTY**

MON AUG 3

1-7 pm Blood Drive @VFW See Flyer!

THURS AUG 6

4-7 pm Farmer's Market

FRI AUG 7

6:30 AA

SUN AUG 9

9 am WORSHIP
10 am Coffee
10:15 *Men's Ministry*



Stewardship Committee is encouraging members to donate to **Lutheran Disaster Response** which is the ELCA's ministry to accompany disaster survivors. They are already at work with congregations, synods & local partners in affected communities. We will be accepting donations through August 16th. **Prayerfully consider GIVING TODAY.**

Check Payable to: "First Evangelical Lutheran"

Memo Line: "Lutheran Disaster Response"

Thank you for your donation!!!