



US Semiquincentennial

Sunday, July 5, 2026

9:00 am

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activites to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Allan Treichel
Lector	Karen Zack
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Offering Bearer	Maggie Hernandez
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos



Christmas in July 2026

We are launching Christmas in July, and we want you to be part of it!

Here is how it works. Our Christmas tree is out in worship, and on it you will find paper ornaments that say \$20. Take one, put it in your offering envelope with an extra \$20 — that's just \$5 a week — and return it any Sunday in July. When you do, you will receive a hand-decorated ornament made by our very own congregation members, young and old, as a small token of our gratitude.

That's it. Simple, fun, and completely doable.

Here is the magic: if every giving household participates, we can close the gap between what we have budgeted and what we are actually receiving each month. Together, one ornament at a time, we can do something really meaningful for this congregation we love.

This is a community challenge and a community celebration. Let's see what we can do together this July.

Look for the tree. Grab an ornament. Be part of the magic.

US Semiquincentennial — July 5, 2026

With One Voice, setting five: This summer we are worshiping using the Bread of Life setting, a beloved liturgical setting that first appeared in With One Voice, a supplement to our Lutheran hymnal. Known for its simple, flowing melodies and accessible congregational responses, this setting has been sung in Lutheran congregations for decades.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Litany for the Nation in Time of War

O God, the Father in heaven,

have mercy on us.

O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

O God, the Holy Spirit,

have mercy upon us.

O Christ, merciful Savior, hear us in this hour:

O Christ, visit us with your compassion.

For our sins by which we have grieved you;

for the ways in which we forget your steadfast love;

for our indifference to the gospel and the witness of your church;

for our apathy toward your call to faith;

for our failure to see the spiritual needs of those around us:

we beg your forgiveness, O Lord.

Christ, forgive us.
O Christ, deliver us.

That our nation may remember you as the God of mercy and truth;
that the fulfillment of your will may be our desire;
that we may be healed from the motives of greed and revenge;
that we may discover through you a deeper experience of prayer;
that we may offer unselfish devotion to the well-being of our nation;
that you would uphold and guide our president and all in authority;
that you would defend and preserve our soldiers, sailors, and air
force;
and that all our people may seek courage and a spirit of endurance:
we ask this, O Lord.

To comfort those under the constant strain of apprehension;
to remember those in captivity;
to bind up the wounded, sheltering them under your care;
to stretch out your arm to all who are lonely, tempted, or discour-
aged;
to have mercy upon all who trust in you:
we ask this, O Lord.

To hasten the day of peace;
to cast away the threads of hate;
to forgive our enemies;
to scatter any who delight in war;
and to renew steadfast faith within us:
hear us, good Lord, and receive our prayer.

O Christ, spare us.
O Christ, heal us. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dick-
ey, Bill Flick, Dan Fleming, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Don-
na Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett,
Jane Gradert, Marge (Shriver) Katarzynski, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan
King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane,
Phyllis Nemeth, Patti Novak, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robin-
son, Steve Senderak, Claude, Starks, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl
Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill
Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Mor-
gan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane
Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 6/28/2026: \$ 683.00

Blessing

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, + one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies ELW #888



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.

Gathering Hymn: When Our Song Says Peace ELW # 709



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de - spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de - spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de - spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953
Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
Text © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.**

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Children's Moment

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

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.

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

Psalms 145:8-14

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full ^l of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ^l steadfast love.

⁹ LORD, you are ^l good to all,

Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life

People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved. You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your servants courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

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

Post Communion Prayer

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

and your compassion is over[|] all your works.
¹⁰ All your works shall praise[|] you, O LORD,
and your faithful[|] ones shall bless you.
¹¹ They shall tell of the glory[|] of your kingdom
and speak[|] of your power,
¹² that all people may know[|] of your power
and the glorious splendor[|] of your kingdom.
¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
through-[|] out all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in[|] all your
works.
¹⁴ The Lord upholds all[|] those who fall
and lifts up those who[|] are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

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
Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of
death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



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

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines 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. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:
The table is ready for all.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: Accept. O, Lord, the Gifts We Bring WOV # 759



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[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.”

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.”

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: In Christ, There is No East or West

ELW # 650



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.
Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God’s steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation’s praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**