

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5th, 2026 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +
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The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139
Quinette Brucker ~ Dir. of Music/Organist
610-428-3838

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Confession** (by ELCA Worship Resource Development)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God. *(moment of silence)* God of all mercy ...

C: We have sinned against You, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power, strengthen you in doing what is good. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #887**

"This Is My Song"

***The Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.

P: Let us pray. ~ Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your

P: 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. **Amen.**

The 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."

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. 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145 (selective verses, read responsively)

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

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
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 throughout 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.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 7: 15-25a

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.

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? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



*The Holy 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.

The Holy Gospel according to the 11th chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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

Then Jesus began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. "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. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven?"

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; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 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.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Sermon

*Hymn #611

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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

***The Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace ... **Hear our prayer.**

Anthem

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Blessing of the Communion Elements



The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: Let us pray. ~ 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.**

May our God bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn #742**

"What a Friend We Have ..."

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

Everyone is invited to come downstairs to the fellowship hall
to enjoy a red, white, and blue Coffee Hour!

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*thank
you*

... to Alicia Baird for serving as our lector

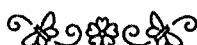
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



To remember in prayer ... Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna and Dan Brucker, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Hope Geary, Harlan, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkesel, George Weiser, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. †



The altar flowers are placed in honor of all U.S. veterans
and those who currently serve in the military.



Excerpt from "The Hill We Climb" by
National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman

And yes, we are far from polished.

Far from pristine.

But that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect.

We are striving to forge a union with purpose,
to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors,
characters, and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us,
but what stands before us.

We close the divide because we know, to put our future
first,

we must first put our differences aside.

We lay down our arms

so we can reach our arms to one another.

We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.

... For while we have our eyes on the future,
history has its eyes on us.

