



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 5, 2026, 8:30am | 6th Sunday after Pentecost

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

**GATHERING HYMN** | *For the Beauty of the Earth* | ELW #879, vs 1,4-5

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

**Refrain: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.**

4. For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: **Refrain**

5. For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n: **Refrain**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord of all the worlds, **C: guide this nation by your 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.**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 145:8-14*

R: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**C: The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

R: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.

**C: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,**

R: to make known to all people your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**C: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

**The LORD is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.**

R: The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

## SECOND READING | *Romans 7:15-25a*

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL | *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, <sup>17</sup> 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup> "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup> 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."

<sup>25</sup> 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; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON | Minister Barry Fewson

### HYMN OF THE DAY | *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* | ELW #712, vs 1-2, 4

1. Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.
4. Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | July : Lutheran Disaster Response

### OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | ELW #473

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. (*Sing 2x*)

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### Distribution

#### Post Communion Blessing

#### Post Communion Prayer

**C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN | *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* | ELW #888

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,

for amber waves of grain,

for purple mountain majesties

above the fruited plain:

America! America!

God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with brotherhood

from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved

in liberating strife,

who more than self their country loved,

and mercy more than life:

America! America!

May God thy gold refine,

till all success be nobleness,

and ev'ry gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream

that sees beyond the years

thine alabaster cities gleam,

undimmed by human tears:

America! America!

God mend thine ev'ry flaw,

confirm thy soul in self-control,

thy liberty in law.

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADULT VBS

August 3 & 10 @ 5:30-8pm  
Join us as we dive into the book of Revelation! The evening will include music art, food and FUN!

### SCHOOL KIT COLLECTION

The Women of FLC are collecting items for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. They are collecting the following items:

- 70 sheet notebooks,
- boxes of 16 or 24 crayons,
- pencil sharpeners,
- 30 centimeter rulers,
- blunt tip scissors,
- unsharpened no. 2 pencils,
- black or blue pens,
- 2 1/2in erasers.

New items only. Donation bin is outside of the church office.

### BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

◆ Men's & Women's summer weight clothing—all sizes.

- ◆ Sweatshirts.
- ◆ Blankets.
- ◆ Lip balm.
- ◆ Sunscreen.

Donations can be brought to the church office. Thanks!

### WE CARE RECEIPTS

Save your Central Market receipts! The Rebekah Circle is collecting receipts and turning them in for cash, which is used to support local ministries and organizations. A collection basket is outside of the church office.

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

July 7 | Staff Development Day

### SPECIAL MUSIC

We are looking for musicians to provide special music during our summer worship services. All ages and groups are welcome.

Talk to Karen Bimberg to schedule a Sunday.  
karen@firstlutheranchurch.com

### SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

May 24 – August 30  
8:30 & 10:30am

Join us this summer for worship! Our 8:30 am service is indoors and will be live streamed, the 10:30am service is outdoors on the lawn. If you are joining us outside, please bring a lawn chair or blanket.

### Prayers for God's People

*Bill Wegschied, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Kathy Larson, Haley & Mel Johnson, Betty Johnston, Ruth Olson, Alan Bergum*

*Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, including the families of Thomas Howe*

### Youth & Family Ministry

#### HIGH SCHOOL PIZZA LUNCH

July 23 @ noon at Woodfire Pizza.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL BONFIRE & GAME NIGHT

August 23 @ 6-8pm



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**Thanks for  
worshiping with us!**

Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo & Minister Barry Fewson  
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

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