



# THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUNE 21, 2026



## Pre-service Music

## Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship: Be Not Afraid

*text and tune Bob Dufford*

# Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

- L** The Lord is great and certainly worthy of praise! The Lord is merciful and compassionate; He is patient and demonstrates great loyal love. The Lord is good to all and has compassion on all He has made. Therefore, let us go to our God and confess our sins knowing that,
- C** **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**
- L** Bless the Lord! With all that is within us, let us bless His holy name. In mercy, Almighty God has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Because of Jesus, all of your sins have been forgiven and removed from you as far as the East is from the West. Go in peace. Your sins are forgiven.
- C** Amen.

## Peace of the Lord

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

# Service of the Word

## Gathering Hymn: LSB 532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

The Head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords  
Is His, is His by right,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords,  
And heav'n's eternal Light;

The Joy of all who dwell above,  
The Joy of all below  
To whom He manifests His love  
And grants His name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,  
With all its grace, is giv'n;  
Their name an everlasting name,  
Their joy the joy of heav'n.

They suffer with their Lord below,  
They reign with Him above,  
Their profit and their joy to know  
The myst'ry of His love.

The cross He bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to Him:  
His people's hope, His people's wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855 Text: Public domain

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**L** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**L** Let us pray.

O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## Children's Message

### Old Testament Reading

*Jeremiah 20:7–13*

**A** The Old Testament reading is from the twentieth chapter of the book of Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision

all day long. <sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. <sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." <sup>11</sup> But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. <sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. <sup>13</sup> Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 91:1-10*

- L** You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
- C** **will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."**
- L** For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;
- C** **he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**
- L** You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,
- C** **or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**
- L** A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
- C** **You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.**
- L** Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
- C** **no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Epistle

*Romans 6:12-23*

- A** The Epistle reading is from the sixth chapter of the book of Romans.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

- L** Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
- C** **and his greatness is unsearchable.**

- L** On your wondrous works, I will meditate,  
**C** and I will declare your greatness.

### Gospel Acclamation

- C** Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!  
Hallelujah! Halle\_lujah!

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### Verse

- L** Alleluia. Everyone who acknowledges me before others,  
**C** I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.

### Holy Gospel

*Matthew 10:5a, 21–33*

- L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 10:5–33 (NRSV)

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: <sup>21</sup> Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! <sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.”

- L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Sermon

#### Hymn of the Day: LSB 877 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

God, who made the earth and heaven,  
Darkness and light:  
You the day for work have given,  
For rest the night.  
May Your angel guards defend us,  
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,  
Holy dreams and hopes attend us  
All through the night.

And when morn again shall call us  
To run life's way,  
May we still, whate'er befall us,  
Your will obey.  
From the pow'r of evil hide us,  
In the narrow pathway guide us,

Never be Your smile denied us  
All through the day.

Guard us waking, guard us sleeping,  
And when we die,  
May we in Your mighty keeping  
All peaceful lie.  
When the last dread call shall wake us,  
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,  
But to reign in glory take us  
With You on high.

Holy Father, throned in heaven,  
All-holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, freely given,  
Blest Three in One:  
Grant us grace, we now implore You,  
Till we lay our crowns before You  
And in worthier strains adore You  
While ages run.

Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (sts. 2, 4): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt. Text: Public domain

## Apostles' Creed

- L** We make confession of our faith together in the words of the creed.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## Blessing of Those Celebrating Birthdays

*All who are celebrating a birthday this month are invited to come forward for a prayer and a blessing.*

- L** Let us pray:  
Loving and gracious Heavenly Father, you have given us our bodies, souls, and all that we have. We thank you for the great gift of life that you have given to us, and especially to these your dearly loved people. We thank you for them and for being able to share life with them. As they celebrate another year of life, we ask your blessing and favor to be upon them. Increase their joy in life lived with you. Grow their trust in your presence and promises. And give them zeal for joining you in your mission in this world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- L** We give thanks for you and celebrate with you as you celebrate another year of life. In this next year of live the blessing of our God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. Happy Birthday!

## Prayer of the Church

- L** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

- L Loving and Gracious God, you have gathered us together to be your people in this world. You give us your Holy Spirit, your word, and the sacraments. Work through Your means of grace to transform our lives, so that they would always show your love and forgiveness and grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L God of all strength, You have brought us from death to life. Do not let sin reign in or among us and make us obey its passions. Turn our hearts continually to Christ, that we would live as instruments of righteousness. Give us joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your work in this world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L God of our salvation, Your Son warned that Your people would face opposition from the world. Give courage and fortitude to the people of your church, that they would boldly sing Your praises, gladly endure suffering for the name of Jesus, and continue by Your grace to the end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L Gracious God we pray for our partners in ministry in this community, for Gathering Lambs, Kent Bible Church, Luther Towers, and Interfaith Housing Alliance for the Poor, bless them and the good work they do in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L Gracious, loving, and caring God. We thank you on this day for Fathers and the great gift and blessing that they are to us. Thank you for their love, care, and sacrifice. Thank you for the ways in which they teach us about you and the life that we have in Jesus. Thank you for the ways they show us your love. Bless them this day, and every day as they continue to do this. We understand that this day is also a day that can be difficult and challenging for some. We pray that they would see and know that Your love and faithfulness are without condition and without end. And that on this day that they would be comforted and strengthened by your presence, promises, and love. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L God of all creation, You appoint authorities to keep order for the good of Your people. Bless the authorities in our land with wisdom to seek the common good. Deliver them from temptations to promote evil and oppose Your will. Give them penitent hearts, that they might be confident of Your grace for them. Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. And heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L Father in heaven, You bestow life and salvation by Your Holy Word. Strengthen us to hold fast to Your Word and declare Your praises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L Holy God, look with favor upon those who are persecuted for the name of Jesus. Be their faithful warrior against the evil one. Strengthen them to endure and make known Your mercy through the witness of their suffering. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L Almighty God, keep our feet from falling, and preserve us from fear. Make us confident that, since You have delivered our souls from death, You will deliver us to walk before You in the light of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L Heavenly Father, Your Son demonstrated His power over sin by healing every disease and affliction. Give healing to those in need [*especially those we love who need your healing and care, that we name before you now out loud or in our hearts \_\_\_\_\_*]. Deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G **Amen.**

## Offering

- C** Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,  
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."  
Time to share our gifts and say,  
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

## Offertory Prayer

- L** Generous Lord, You invite us to join You in Your mission in this world and grow in our trust in You through the giving of our offerings. Though we give You our gifts in various times and ways, we ask You to be glorified in the giving of them as we give them in thanksgiving and with gratitude for all Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name we pray,
- C** Amen.

## Offertory

- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## The Lord's Prayer

- L** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:
- 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.

## Benedicamus

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
  
- L** Bless we the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
  
- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service. We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.
- C** Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.
  
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.
- C** Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.
  
- L** We have received God's gifts of love and mercy.
- C** As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.
  
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and who engage in service.
- C** We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.
  
- L** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:

## **Benediction**

- L** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn: LSB 837 Lift High the Cross**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.  
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