July 5, 2026 ☩

6th Sunday after Pentecost

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude - "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" setting, John Carter

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** no. 697 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy, **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.

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.**

*__Apostolic Greeting__
P: 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.**

*__Kyrie__ – page 184, *ELW Setting Eight*

*__Hymn of Praise__ – page 185, *ELW Setting Eight*

*__Prayer of the Day -__
Lord of all the worlds, 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.**

We Listen to God's Word

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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: *the psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse*
Psalm 145:8-14

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.

Second Reading:

Romans 7:15-25

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.**

***Gospel Acclamation** – page 188, *ELW Setting Eight*

***Gospel:**

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The Gospel of Mathew, the 11th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

9 [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."
20 Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of
power had been done because they did not repent. 21 "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. 22 But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be
more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum,
will you be exalted to heaven?
No, you will be brought down to Hades.
"For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it
would have remained until this day. 24 But I tell you that on the day of
judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."
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 -
Pastor Chris Culuris

*__Hymn__ – no. 790
"Day by Day"

*__The Apostles' Creed__ –
Together let us profess our faith:
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,

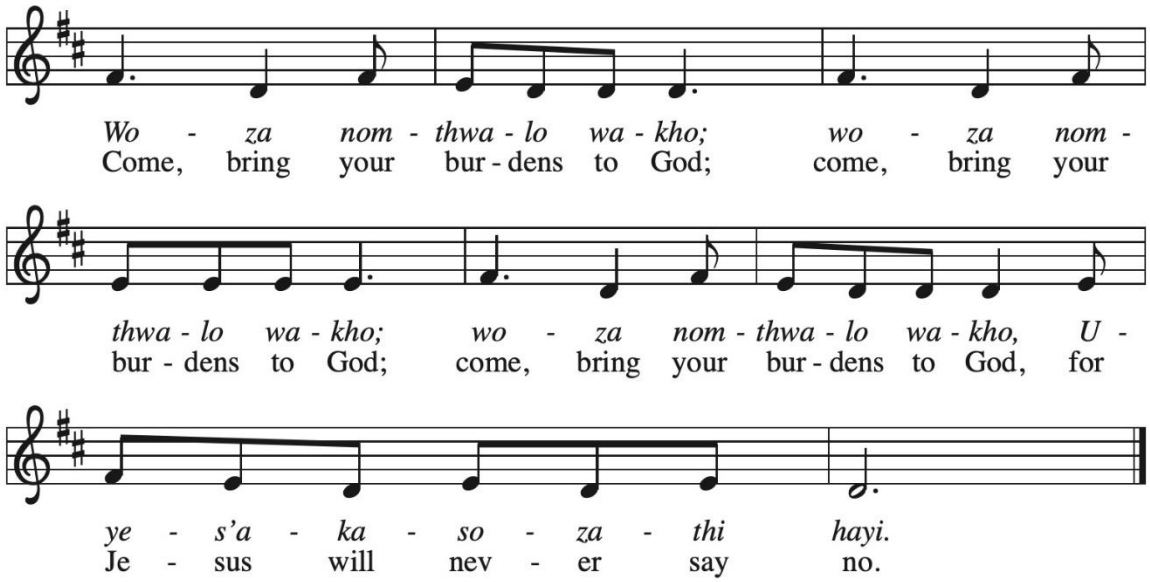
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

AM: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *After each petition*: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sing this at the beginning and the end of the prayers of intercession:

Come, Bring Your Burdens



Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick
Music: WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO, South African melody; arr. Welile Sigabi

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

***Sign of Peace** P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering -For electronic giving please scan the QR on acknowledgement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music – Vocal solo

***Offering Prayer**

AM: 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.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

***Great Thanksgiving and Preface** (spoken) – page 190, *ELW Setting Eight*

***Holy, Holy, Holy** – page 190, *ELW Setting Eight*

***Words of Institution** – page 108-109, *ELW Setting One*

***The Lord's Prayer** –

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 the Table** –

P: Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion at the rail today.*

Hymn - no. 777 "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"
Hymn - no. 813 "Faith of Our Fathers"

Prayer After Communion

P: 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.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

*__Sending Hymn__ – no. 888 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

*__Blessing & Dismissal__

P: 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.**

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

*__Postlude__ "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
setting, Wilbur Held

<u>In Worship Today</u>	Trumpet: Doug Schuldt	Tech: Brett Petersen
Pastor: Chris Culuris	Soloist: Sophia Culuris	Bread Baker: Diane Stewart
Organist: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson	Ushers: John Nadeau	
Assisting Minister: Grace Timm	Communion Preparers:	
	Communion Servers:	

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Mary Ann Scharf, Kay Moline, Kevin Nicholson (Betty Thompson's nephew), Leah Crosby and baby (niece of Aileen Bipes), Hazel Adelman (niece of Mary Gaebler).

<u>Acknowledgments</u>

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be provided and served by Fellowship Committee members Joan and David Olson.
- **FLC Director of Choirs and Handbells position is open.** If you are interested in applying for this position to lead Youth and Adult Choirs, or Handbells, please contact Kaari Bly, Pastor Chris, or Deacon Brenda.
- **Rental Assistance:** The need for emergency funds continues as many of our immigrant neighbors have not returned to work. All money collected will be dispersed through the Good Neighbor Diversity Council's Emergency Fund.
- **Personal care donation for SPAF:** FLC is collecting bar soap and laundry detergent during July. Place any donations in the grocery cart in the Gathering space. Thank you!
- **Pastor Chris will be away** on vacation from July 6 – 12. If you have an emergency, please call the church office: 507-934-3060.
- **Deacon Brenda will be away** on continuing education from July 13 – 16. She is participating in the Habitat for Humanity Bike Ride on July 17.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Public Discipleship** is a Christian inter-congregational program that builds on ISAIAH's recent Palm Sunday action and reclaims Christianity from those who have weaponized it for cruelty and greed. This is a learning and action series this summer where participants learn about the scriptural and historic foundations of Christian public witness, and learn how to lead your own faithful public actions with others from your congregation.
    - **St. Peter Churches and Communities.** July 7, 6:30-8:30pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church. *See Deacon Brenda registration info.*

- **The Church will be closed** on July 13 and 14 while the parking lot is being paved.

- **Vacation Bible School** will be held at FLC, August 2 – 6, from 5:30 – 8 pm, for youth Age 4 – Grade 6. Staffers from Camp Shetek will lead. FLC youth and adult helpers are needed. Service Hours will be given to any NHS or Confirmation students who assist. To register go to: flcstp.org

- You are invited to bring a few fresh garden flowers to our **Outdoor-Service-Indoors**, Sunday July 19, to help with keeping God's Creation present. Green Committee members will have vases and baskets ready for your floral offering. Thank you.