June 21, 2026 ☩

4th 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 "Sanctuary" Thompson, Scruggs

LORD prepare me to be a sanctuary; pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving I'll be a living ___ sanctuary for You.

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** – ACS 1097 *(see back page)* "Ten Thousand Reasons"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.** Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **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** – no. 525 "You Are Holy"

***Prayer of the Day -**

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

7 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. 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. 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. 10 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."11 But the LORD is with me like a terrifying 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. 12 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.13 Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

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

Psalm: *the psalm will be spoken today by whole verse* Psalm 69:7- 18

7 Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.
8 **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,**
an alien to my mother's children.
9 Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
10 **I humbled myself with fasting,**
but that was turned to my reproach.
11 I put on sackcloth also,
and became a by word among them.
12 **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,**
and the drunkards make songs about me.
13 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:
"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.
14 **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;**
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.
15 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;

do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.
16 **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;**
in your great compassion, turn to me.
17 Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
18 **Draw near to me and redeem me;**
because of my enemies deliver me.

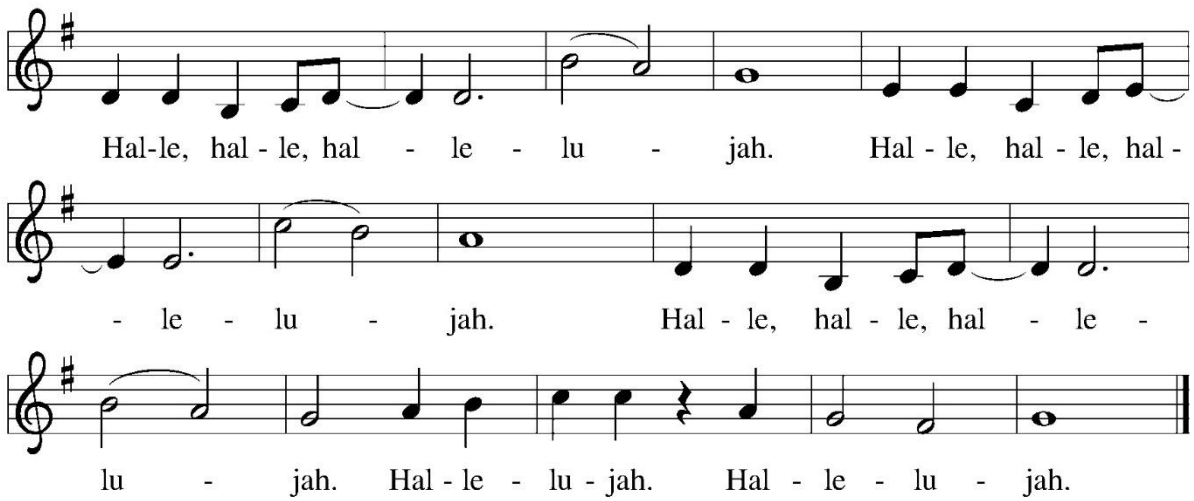
Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

1 1b Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? 2 By no means! How can we who
died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so
that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in
newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him
in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of
sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed
from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that
Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over
him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you
also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

***Gospel Acclamation –**

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Music: Caribbean traditional

***Gospel:** Matthew 10:24-39

The Gospel of Mathew, the 10th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[35] Jesus said to the twelve: [24] "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; [25] 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!

[26] "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing
secret that will not become known. [27] What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what
you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. [28] Do not fear those who kill the body but
cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. [29] Are not
two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your
Father. [30] And even the hairs of your head are all counted. [31] So do not be afraid; you are of more
value than many sparrows.
[32] "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before
my Father in heaven, [33] but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in
heaven.

[34] "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace
but a sword.
[35] For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
[36] and one's foes will be members of one's own household.
[37] "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or
daughter more than me is not worthy of me, [38] and whoever does not take up the cross and
follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their
life for my sake will find it."

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

Sermon – Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** – no. 798 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

***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: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.
After each petition: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus 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 "Light of the World" Blindman

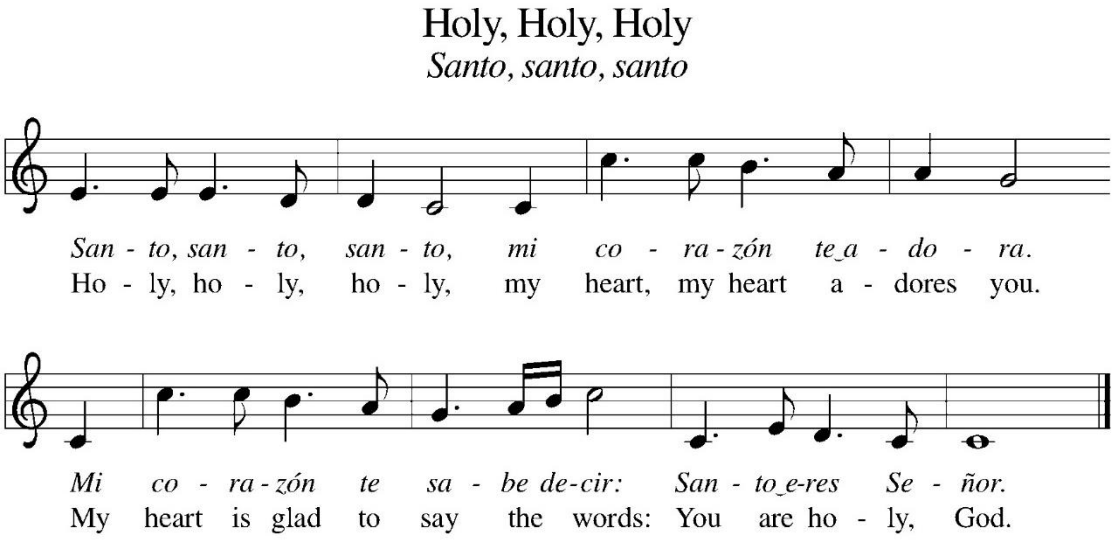
*__Offering Prayer__

AM: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ – page 190, *ELW Setting Eight*

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ –



*__Words of Institution__ – page 108, *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: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!
Distribution of Communion – *the minsters will be coming to your tables to serve you today.*
Music:

Take Me Jesus Willie Joubert

Take me Jesus as I am, I can come no other way.
Draw me closer unto You; teach me how to walk Your way.
Make me like a precious stone, crystal clear and finely honed.
The light of Jesus shining through, giving glory back to You.

Come and Taste –

Come and taste and see how good the love of God can be!
Come and taste and see how good the love of God can be
We come here broken hearted, seeking all that God offers.
Come and taste and see how good the love of God can be! Come see!

Prayer After Communion

P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing and Commissioning of Service Trip Participants

Blessing for Fathers

We Go in Peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** *(see back page for music)* – " Make A Difference"

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

AM: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** - "Make a Difference" Rachel Kurtz

In Worship Today

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Pianist: Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
Assisting Minister: Nancy Timm
Musician: Steve Kidder

Ushers: Steve Bolint, John Nadeau,
Communion Preparers: Annalise Rivas; Dave Kennedy
Communion Servers: Carolyn Trnka

Tech:
Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, 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, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), Kay Moline, Kevin Nicholson (Betty T's nephew), Leah Crosby and baby (niece of Aileen Bipes), Hazel Adelman (niece of Mary Gaebler).

Acknowledgments

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FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- **Fellowship** will be provided by Cheryl Kautt and served by Carolyn Trnka and Grace Timm from the Fellowship Committee.
- **Hike or Bike on Wednesday, June 24** 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm FLC cyclist enthusiast Shirb Sylvester will lead the ride that starts from the FLC parking lot and include a stop at Sota Scoops – bring a few dollars for an ice cream.
- **Pray for FLC/Trinity Service Trip to Milwaukee:** 16 students and 5 adults from St Peter will leave to "Serve Boldly" in Milwaukee early Sunday, June 28. Please keep our students and Chaperones in your prayers this week: Wes, Laird, Timmy, Jake, Cole, Malcolm, Sam, Lathe, Pastor Chris and Deacon Brenda. (Final Packing meeting: June 24)
- **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 or are working part-time hours. 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 June and July. Place any donations in the grocery cart in the Gathering space. Thank you!
- **Resurrection Cemetery workday, Tuesday, June 30 from 9-11:30.** Because of the large amount of work that remains, the Cemetery Committee has scheduled an extra workday. We are doing our best to keep the cemetery looking nice but could really use some extra help. Please bring rakes, clippers, whippers and saws. Medium sized cedar trees will be removed, small branches picked up and removed and weed whipping around gravestones. Many hands make light work! Thank you from the Cemetery Committee.
- **Mary Jane Voss,** the mother of Diane Block, tuned 98 on the 15th. Happy Birthday!

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Public Discipleship training:** Join Session One: "The Power of Public Christian Witness for Such a Time as This" In person training: June 30 and July 7, in St Peter. June 22, June 29 in Mankato. Register using this link: See flyer in the Gathering Space for info. *Step* into *something* deeper. Step into community. Step into a faith that **moves.**
- Come support a **fundraiser for scholarships** for future grads of St. Peter-Kasota.
  July 3, 2026, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Pork Chops - $5 Meal - $10
  Red Men Parking Lot – Walk Up and Drive Through Available off Mulberry Street.
- *Visit* https://bit.ly/DiscipleshipSignupMStP or scan this code: