

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 4-5, 2026

"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education"



Music of Preparation,

Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

Our Ministry: We are a people of God who are: ***"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."***

Welcome! On this Sunday following our nation's celebration of independence, we are grateful you have come to worship Almighty God, who continues to bless our land in countless ways. Welcome!

Devotions & Publications are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... WORSHIP NOTES

Communion: *The Lord's Supper - A Reverent Sacrament

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, "Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord's body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks." In view of the serious nature of the Lord's Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord's Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns. NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

Note About Attendance Cards...Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. **Please list the name of each person in worship.** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

To Our Visitors...Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our school has a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available in the main entryway.

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN

The one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church is found in various places throughout the whole world and in every nation. The United States stands as the unique example of a nation founded upon the Judeo-Christian principles of the Holy Bible. July 4th is the day which marks the official adoption of the American Declaration of Independence, which reads, in part:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

As we gather as Christians in America before the altar of God, we acknowledge with joy and conviction our loyalty to our homeland. But we do so knowing that anything made by the hands of men is subject to the decay and demise and disfigurement of our sin. Therefore, Christians give the higher and final loyalty to God, our Creator and Redeemer. In truth, the hymn declares, "I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home" (LSB 748:1).

God's Word reminds us that there are conflicting voices calling for obedience and loyalty. Good King Hezekiah of Judah seeks to protect his people from the tyrant of Assyria by warning them not to answer his lies. Paul warns Christians not to listen to the blind unbelievers of the world. Our Lord Jesus reveals the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and all who would seek to confuse the proper authority of earthly leaders over against the kingdom of God.

As we owe loyalty and obedience to both God and those placed in godly authority over us, when human authority is set against God's revealed will, we are called, as Peter said, to ***"obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)***. The world has an ungodly disobedience to God's fundamental will and commands. We are called to be lights in the darkness of the sinful world around us.

We continue to thank God for our nation. "And," as the historic Declaration concludes, ***"for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."***

Let us be witnesses of God's grace to our local, state, and national leaders, that they may know Jesus Christ and His forgiveness.

As We Gather: While Independence Day does not appear on liturgical calendars, it is appropriate for Christians who live in the United States of America to gather for worship to celebrate the founding of our nation. We certainly do not worship our nation, but we honor and give thanks to God for allowing us to live in this great land. We certainly do not claim that our nation is perfect, but we rejoice in the freedoms we enjoy, especially the freedom to worship our God as we choose without being subjected to government persecution. As we celebrate our nation's birth this week, we sincerely ask God to continue to bless our country, and to bless the leaders of our country with wisdom, justice, and mercy.

Notes for Worship: As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

Before worship prayer - Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. You created us in Your own image and redeemed us with the precious blood of Your Son. By Your Spirit You sanctified us and called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. AMEN.

8:30am - Preservice: "Battle Hymn Of The Republic" Grace West, Piano

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" LSB, hymn #892

Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.

All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;

God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come;

Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;

Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.

First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.

Lord of harvest, grant that we

Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,
 From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
 Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 But the fruitful ears to store
 In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;
 Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
 There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide:
 Come with all Thine angels, come,
 Raise the glorious harvest home.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

- P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen. *Matthew 28:19b*
- P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
 P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. *Psalms 51:1-3, 10*
- P: Let us confess our failures, fears, and weaknesses to God. Let us seek God's mercy and grace that we may be forgiven and live in peace.
(Moment of silent reflection)
- P: Almighty God, out of Your great mercy You have caused us to live in this great land, a land of freedom and opportunity. You have provided us with a government that allows us to worship You in truth and purity.
C: We confess to You, gracious God, that we have not always used the freedom we have as citizens of this land to honor You or to serve others. We have often misused the gift of “freedom of religion” as “freedom from religion.” We have neglected the faithful gathering of Your people for worship. Too often we have not honored and respected those You have placed in authority over us. We have taken for granted the gifts You give us in this country, and we have even claimed credit for our freedom for

ourselves. For these and all our many other sins, good Lord, forgive us. Restore and renew us, and encourage us by Your Holy Spirit to live in freedom for Your glory.

- P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us. He sent His Son into this world of sin to set us free from the power of sin and death. At the command and promise of my Lord Jesus Christ, I, as your called and ordained pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Before You, Lord, We Bow”

LSB, hymn #966

(This hymn was written by Francis Scott Key, the author of the Star-Spangled Banner, as a hymn of thanks and praise to God for the celebration of Independence Day in 1832.)

Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
 And rules the world below, Boundless in pow’r and love.
 Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,
 Our hearts we raise To You, our King!

The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,
 From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.
 For this bright day, For this fair land -
 Gifts of Your hand - Our thanks we pay.

May ev’ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
 Shine in Your Word’s pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!
 May ev’ry tongue Be tuned to praise
 And join to raise A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;
 Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.
 Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,
 And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow’r He comes, Oh, may our native land
 From all its rending toms Send forth a glorious band,
 A countless throng, With joy to sing
 To heav’n’s high King Salvation’s song!

P: Let us pray . . . God of all might and glory, You called into being nations and governments to keep order and protect sinful humanity. We ask You to bless these United States of America. Guide our leaders so they will not direct us to paths that dishonor You. Continue to bless us in this land with the freedom to worship You as we ought, and to proclaim the Gospel of salvation without hindrance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

THE READING OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Daniel 9:15-19 *(Lord, Bless Your People)*

Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us. Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.

Epistle Lesson: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 *(Christ Has Set Us Free)*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict

with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Stand

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:25-30 *(Come To Me)*

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; 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 who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: “I'm But a Stranger Here” *LSB, hymn #748*

I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, Heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

Sermon: "Some Thoughts About America. . . ."

Daniel 9:15-19

Stand

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. . . . Gracious God, You sacrificed Your Son that we may be free from the power of sin and death. We give thanks to You for those

of this congregation who were willing to sacrifice their lives in the service of this country, that we may be free from the powers of repression and able to worship You as we ought. Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: O Lord, We thank You for men and women who have served in the armed forces of our country, being willing to risk their lives to protect us and to defend our liberty. Grant to them peace in their lives, and an understanding of the gratitude we have for their service to our country. Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Lord of hosts, You watched over Your chosen people as they faced their enemies while doing Your bidding. Protect Your servants who are on active duty in the armed forces of our country. Keep them safe, spare them from injury, and assure them of Your love and faithfulness to them. Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Creator God, part of Your plan for our world is that governments be established to keep order and to provide justice for all. Give wisdom to our leaders, that they may rule with a sense of justice tempered by mercy. Bless our President and Congress, our judges and officials, that good order may prevail. Protect those who risk their lives to protect us, police officers, sheriff departments, firefighters and others, that they may be kept from harm and danger as they serve citizens on our behalf. Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Lord Jesus, You promise to be with us always. Visit those who are in any type of distress with the assurance that You abide with them even in their infirmities. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Despite their illnesses and afflictions, strengthen their faith so that they may bear any hardship in patience and trust until You grant them deliverance, peace, and health. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: Hear Our Prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

(Please be Seated)

Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

8:30am - Special Music: "A Mighty Fortress"

Grace West, Piano

OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards

LSB, Hymn # 955

C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

HOLY COMMUNION

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: Let us pray, . . . Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us, Your children, and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my †

blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

C: And also with you.

(Please be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB618 - I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole:
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee.
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.
*Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

LSB965 - God Bless Our Native Land

God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night. When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave, Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might.

So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies;
On Him we wait. Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye, To Thee aloud we cry:
God save the state!

LSB894 - For the Fruits of His Creation

For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

BLESSING

P: 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**

Closing Hymn: "Now Thank We All Our God"

LSB, hymn #895

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

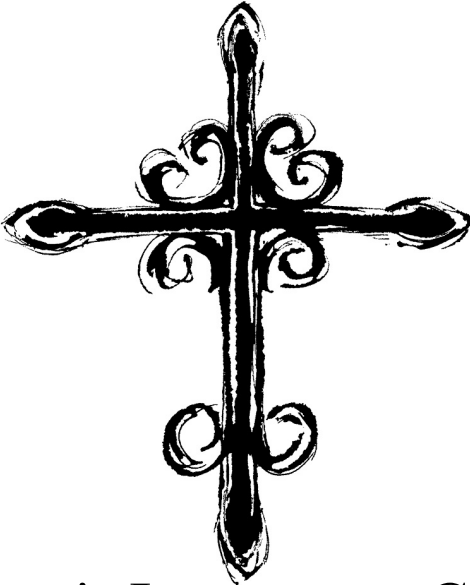
All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

See You In Worship Next Week!

After worship prayer

O Lord, Grant that we may with thankful hearts receive these great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Deliver us from sin and error, from the frailties of the flesh, the allurements of this present age, and the temptations of the devil. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does grows weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we may live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

Altar Flowers Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my mother, Eugene's birthday, by Rob Wood; also in thankfulness for the brave heroes who fight/have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today in our country and with prayers for a return to God in our country and the world, by Jim & Jenny Mossman.. God Bless America!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Roger A. Drinnon Associate Pastor	Rev. Ross Engel Adopt-A-Chaplain
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