

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026 - The US' 250th birthday

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 source of hope for every people, 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.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #634- vs 1, 2, 5, 6 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

- 1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
 Let angels prostrate fall;
 bring forth the royal diadem
 and crown him Lord of all.
 Bring forth the royal diadem
 and crown him Lord of all.

- 2 O seed of Israel's chosen race
 now ransomed from the fall,
 hail him who saves you by his grace
 and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace
 and crown him Lord of all.
- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
 on this terrestrial ball
 to him all majesty ascribe
 and crown him Lord of all.
 to him all majesty ascribe
 and crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 we at his feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all.

GREETING

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
**LORD, you are good to all,
 and your compassion is over all your works.
 All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
 and your faithful ones shall bless you.**

They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
 and speak of your power,
 that all people may know of your power
 and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
**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.

**The LORD upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. **You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. As you are Lord of all the worlds, guide us during the 250th anniversary of this nation to go forward in learning justice and enacting a freedom that allows self-determination for all. We ask for your blessing, that we might be a blessing for others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING Zechariah 9:9-12

BIBLE READING Romans 7:15-25a

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #721 "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.
Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,
through God who loves us.

GOSPEL Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

SERMON "Torn Between Two Forces" Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY ELW #523 “Let Us Go Now To The Banquet”

Refrain: **Let us go now to the banquet,
to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting;
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.**

- 1 I will rise in the early morning;
the community's waiting for me.
With a spring in my step I'm walking
with my friends and my family. **To Refrain**

- 2 God invites all the poor and hungry
to the banquet of justice and good
where the harvest will not be hoarded
so that no one will lack for food. **To Refrain**

- 3 May we build such a place among us
where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together
and to share ev'rything we have. **To Refrain**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

Responses: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #677 “This Little Light of Mine”

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God,
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION & SONG ELW #483 "Here Is Bread"

- 1 Here is bread, here is wine,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine,
Christ is with us here.

Refrain:

**In this bread there is healing,
in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit,
Christ is with us here.**

- 2 Here is grace, here is peace,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace,
feast on Jesus here. **To Refrain**

- 3 Here we are, joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes
Jesus crucified. **To Refrain**

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #888 “O Beautiful For Spacious Skies”

- 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.

DISMISSAL

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