

# Service of the Word

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### July 20, 2025



*This Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion. Although a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper is the norm, a service of the word of God is also celebrated regularly or occasionally in many places.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

#### **GATHERING**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Congregation stands as you are able*

L. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

L. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

L. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

*(printed in the back of the bulletin)*

## GREETING

L. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

## KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C. Amen.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all

crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye

heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Congregation is seated*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a

<sup>1</sup> The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup> And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup> Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10a</sup> Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

**A. Word of God, word of life. C. Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 15 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear  
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes  
against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

<sup>15</sup> [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, <sup>23</sup> provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup> I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup> I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

*Congregation stands as you are able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

L. The holy gospel according to Luke. C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup> Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. <sup>39</sup> She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, <sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

L. The gospel of the Lord. C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated*

SERMON REFLECTION

Debbie Lennon

*Congregation stands as you are able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Be Glorified  
*(printed in the back of the bulletin)*

ELW 744

## APOSTLE'S 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 THE CHURCH

A. In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

A. Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair. We pray especially for.....those we now say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts... Bring honor to any who experience slander and

evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A. Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

L. Trusting in your loving kindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

L. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace.

*Congregation is seated*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

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***Thank you for your generous gifts!***

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via Tithely ↓



*Congregation stands as you are able*

OFFERTORY SONG

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A. Let us pray... O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*Congregation stands as you are able*



## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

L. The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

My Lord, What a Morning

ELW 438

*(printed in the back of the bulletin)*

### **DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **C. Thanks be to God.**

# Announcements for July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!*

*If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

*Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.*

*Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.*

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***Thank you, Diane Diovisalvo, for this morning's refreshments***

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## **Volunteers for today's Worship**

<b>Lay Asst.</b>	Nancy Knecht
<b>Ushers</b>	Janet Beach & Jeanne Von Oessen
<b>Tech</b>	Fred Schoenagel
<b>Tellers</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Outdoor Setup</b>	Fred & Lori Schoenagel

## **Volunteers for next Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Lay Asst.</b>	Emilie Dupont
<b>Ushers</b>	Janet Beach & Jeanne Von Oessen
<b>Tech</b>	John Heeren
<b>Tellers</b>	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
<b>Outdoor Setup</b>	Steve Baumann

**\*\*\*\*\* Join us for refreshments after worship\*\*\*\*\***

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

**Sunday, July 20:** Outside Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am

**Sunday, July 27:** Outside Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am

**Lutheran Disaster Response:** There are ongoing efforts for care near and far and Lutheran Disaster Response helps with all of them. For more information on response support [visit their website here.](#)

**Vernon Day:** This event has been rescheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> (rain date is Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>) for the church booth.

**UPDATE:** Vacation Bible School will not take place this summer at HCLC. Hopefully we can offer it next summer.

**Outside Worship:** Outside Worship has begun, and will continue through Labor Day weekend. **Our new outdoor worship location is in the front of the church** on the patio space just off the kitchen. The **pews will be on the cement** making walking easier for everyone. We will have our picnic tables to the side on the grass as well. We worship outside weekly at 9:30 am, weather permitting. Please dress appropriately for the temperature. **If you are available to help** set up the equipment (electric piano, amplifier, speakers, canopy tents, etc.) please talk to Diane Rossi.

**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, canned carrots, pasta, pasta sauce, canned corn, canned soup, canned baked beans, mayonnaise, tuna helper, cereal, instant pudding & jello, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

Earth and All Stars!



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp, lute, and lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete and band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a new song!

*Refrain*



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926  
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987  
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## Lord, Be Glorified

1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
 4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
 in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
 in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
 in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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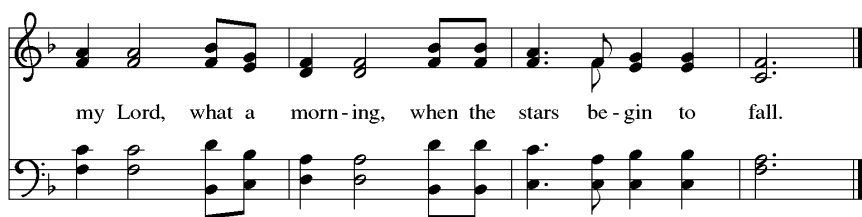
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## My Lord, What a Morning

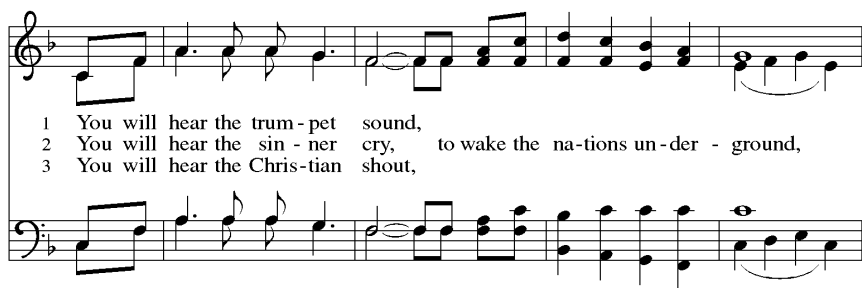
*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

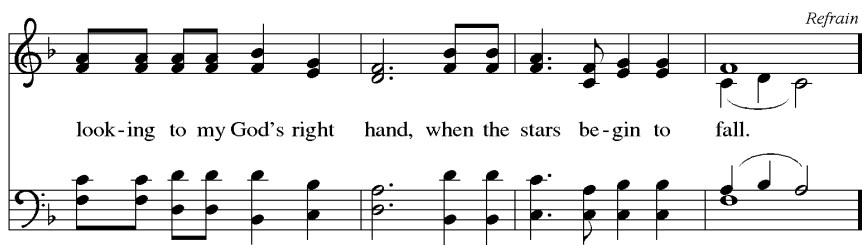


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.





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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*As Children of God,  
we are called to share and serve  
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor** Rev. Peggy Ludlow  
**President** Nancy Knecht  
**Vice President** Frank Urbaniak  
**Treasurer** Claire Speroni  
**Recording Secretary** Dawn McCormick  
**Financial Secretary** John Heeren  
**Outreach Coordinator** Francine Vince  
**Nurture Coordinator** Fred Schoenagel  
**Administration Coordinator** Diane Rossi  
**Youth Representative** Kevin Drache

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kristina Heeren  
Pam Kucks  
Matt Moller  
Aileen Donovan

*Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

