

Date: 07/26/25 Season: PENTECOST 7 (GREEN)

PASTOR Rev. Orin W Cummings, PhD

ASSISTING Mary Keidle

LECTOR Ileen Kendall

ORGANIST Marilyn Boston

A/V Drew Bowman

DISTRIBUTION MINISTER Mary Keidle

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,

because of your steadfast love and faithfulness

In celebration of our baptism, we worship

In the name of God: Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,**

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 752

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING FROM GENESIS 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

**The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING FROM COLOSSIANS 2:6-15, [16-19]

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸ Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in

trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [¹⁶ Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Hears You

Lana Tsilinski Kucherenko

GOSPEL

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 11th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² So he said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴ And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." ⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

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

SERMON

Pastor Orin Cummings

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 1005

Ask the Complicated Questions



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock-ing,



strong our weak-ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith with the 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, not with proud anthems of conquest, but with humble songs of mercy. Let them bend their ears to the cries of the poor, unseen, and forgotten. Teach them to care for the lowly and lift up the broken and bowed down. God of grace, hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We pray especially for Tom, Jacob, Carol, Norma, Yvonne, Pat, Bill, Bruce, Jeff, Matt, Alberta, DJ, Casey, Mark, Bob, Tommy, and Beverly. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Let every action begin in your presence and be carried out with humility and love. Guide our relationships in the wider community. Make us attentive and ready to assist all who seek help. Strengthen our housing ministries and community partnerships. Bless our efforts to mentor the faith to children, especially as we prepare to host VBS. Fill our teachers and volunteers with joy and patience in serving. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we ask for your guidance, wisdom, and sustaining presence as the ELCA assembly gathers in Arizona. Be with our bishops, pastors, and lay

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

leaders as they engage in meaningful dialogue and discernment. May their decisions be rooted in your will and shaped by love for the good of all members, congregations, synods, and our ecumenical partners. Strengthen the bonds of our shared faith. Deepen our sense of community. Let the assembly be a time of unity, growth, and grace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Come, eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 479

We Come to the Hungry Feast

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,
To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay
not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 471

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves. The first staff has three vocal lines (1, 2, 3) with lyrics. The second staff has three vocal lines with lyrics. The third staff has a single vocal line with lyrics. The fourth staff has a single vocal line with lyrics. The music is a simple, rhythmic melody.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 472

Eat This Bread *Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two staves. The first staff has a vocal line with lyrics. The second staff has a vocal line with lyrics. The music is a simple, rhythmic melody.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May 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

TFF 240

It's Me, O Lord *Standing in the Need of Prayer*

Refrain



It's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer;



it's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.



1 Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord,
2 Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord,
3 Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord,
4 Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord,



stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the preach-er, not the dea-con, but it's
stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my fa - ther, not my moth-er, but it's
stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the strang-er, not my neigh-bor, but it's



Refrain

me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.
me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual

MISSION STATEMENT

Pastor/Assisting Minister/Lector/Vicar/Cantor/Congregation

Guided by the Gospel, we:
Welcome all to worship;
Make disciples;
Hunger for ministry;
Nurture youth;
Gather resources for growing ministries;
Offer healing and care to all in need.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
In the name of Christ. Amen

OFFERING

(Please place gifts in the plates as you leave)

POSTLUDE