

Date: 08/17/25 Season: PENTECOST 10 (GREEN)

PASTOR Rev. Orin W Cummings, PhD

VICAR Abbey Knappman

ASSISTING Carter Bergin

LECTOR Chris Davis

KEYBOARDIST Karen Bowman

CANTORS Revelations Praise Band

A/V Drew Bowman

DISTRIBUTION MINISTERS Vicar Abbey, Carter Bergin, Chris Davis

PRELUDE

SOUL ON FIRE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In celebration of our baptism, we worship

In the name of God: Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GATHERING SONG #1

10,000 REASONS

(Please be seated as we prepare our hearts for confession)

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 SONG #2

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

WORD

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

GOSPEL

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

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 12th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,

mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

BACK-TO-SCHOOL (BACKPACK) BLESSING

Education is a life-long practice that shape children and adults for vocation and service. It requires a body of people with different gifts to do so. Today, we bless all teachers and staff, as well as students at the beginning of a new school year.

Psalm 78:1-4

¹ Listen, my people, to my teaching,
and pay attention to what I say.
² I am going to use wise sayings
and explain mysteries from the past,
³ things we have heard and known,
things that our ancestors told us.
⁴ We will not keep them from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the LORD's power and great deeds
and the wonderful things God has done.

(Have all children with backpacks come forward to the altar rail)

Let us pray: Dear God, bless these bags and let the children be brave as they begin school. Be with them in the classroom, hallways, on the playground, on buses or in cars as they make their way to and from school each day. As they learn and grow, show them how to serve you and help them to teach us all about your love, in Christ's name.

Amen.

(Have all who work in the Education Sector stand if any are present)

Let us pray: O God, we ask your blessings on these women and men who serve you in so many ways. We pray that you would give them patience, wisdom, and a sense of humor in and out of the classroom, in hallways, on the playground, in administration offices, and on buses. Use them to show children your love and to guide them as they grow, in Christ's name.

Amen.

(Have everyone stand)

All of us are called to support, encourage, and pray for the children who make up our community. We are all called to be teachers and learners. We are to teach children about God's love, and also to learn from what children have to teach us about God. We bless you now as you support children, teachers, and staff.

Let us pray: O God, bless us as we gather here in support of education, and to provide for, protect, and encourage the children among us in their discernment of vocation. May all of us be teachers and learners, in Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

SERMON

Pastor Orin Cummings

SPECIAL MUSIC

SAVED

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.

(Please be seated and join us in prayer)

PRAYER SONG

OPEN OUR EYES AND EARS

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Let us pray for the church, the creation, all people, and open our hearts to the will of God.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries especially Carolyn Schneider in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect freshwater sources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers to enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are homebound or sick especially Pat, Thelma, Tom, Jacob, Carol, Yvonne, Bill, Matt, DJ, Mark, Bob, Tommy, and Beverly. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new church year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.
Amen.

PRAYER SONG

OPEN OUR EYE AND EARS

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

COMMUNION SONG

SPEAK, O LORD

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 SONG

JESUS MESSIAH

MISSION STATEMENT

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 in hope.
Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

(Please place gifts in the plate as you leave)