

Service of Holy Communion

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10th, 2026



INTRODUCTION

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P. Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
Amen.

P. Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King

ELW 408

THE GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P. 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



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar

with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.'
²⁹ "Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20 (*read responsively*)

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

P. The holy gospel according to John. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Love, Love, Love

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

My God, How Wonderful Thou Art

ELW 863

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. Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

A. God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. We pray especially for... those we name aloud... and those we hold in our hearts... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and

inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever. Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P. God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

Because He Lives

Gaither & Schrader

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

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Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

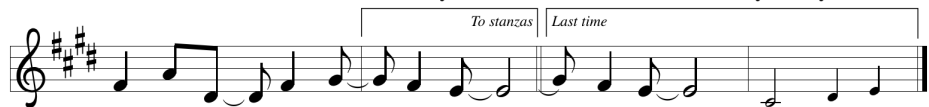
Refrain/Estrillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,



not a mite would I with - hold;



take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry



pow'r as thou shalt choose.



san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Refrain/Estrillo

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music ends with a double bar line.

Congregation kneels or sits

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and 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.

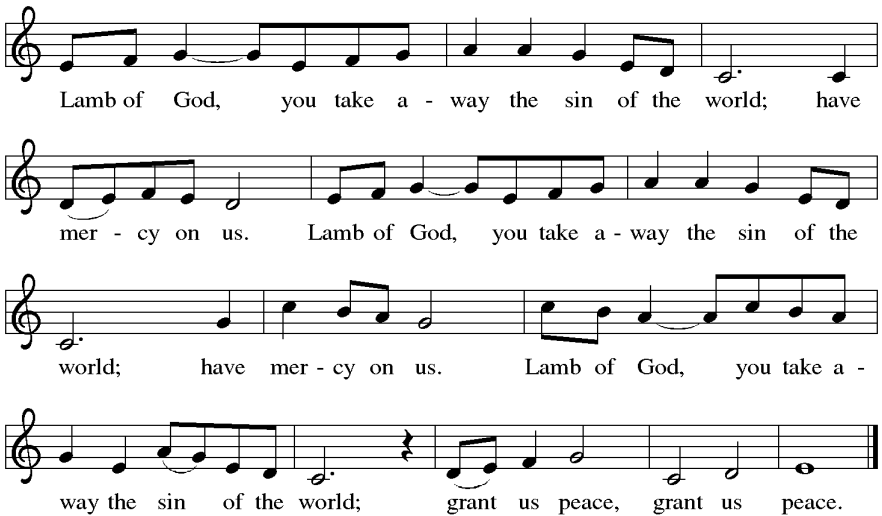
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

ELW 392

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Announcements for May 10th, 2026

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.***

*The **Pray-ground** is a special place to help **support kids and families** in worshipping. We love the sound of kids in worship! God made kids wiggly and curious, and we celebrate that here. **Tips:** explain, participate, and move around together. Need to leave? No problem, but please come back!*

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. **Anyone on the altar is on camera.

Altar flowers are in memory of my mom Melody, from Dawn McCormick

Thank you Pam Kucks, for this morning's refreshments!!

Happy Mother's Day to all those who mother!!!

Volunteers for Today's Worship

Lay Asst.	<i>Emilie Dupont</i>
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Comm. Asst.	<i>Pam Kucks</i>
Tech	<i>Mark Rossi</i>
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	<i>Pam Kucks</i>

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, May 10: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Tuesday, May 12: Pastor's Comm. Off Hrs, Noble Pies, Warwick, 12:30-2:30pm

Wednesday, May 13: NO Adult Ed

Thursday, May 14: Meditation & Mindfulness Study, Zoom, 7-8pm

Saturday, May 16: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Sunday, May 17: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Happy Mother's Day: Please take a seed packet for Mother's Day, thanks to Denise Urbaniak for sharing the seeds from last year's harvest. Love is grown where seeds are sown.

Pastor's Community Office Hours-May: Pastor Peggy will be at the **Noble Pies in Warwick THIS Tuesday, May 12th and May 19th from 12:30-2:30pm** for Community Office Hours.

Mindfulness Walk: Join Pastor Peggy for a **mindfulness walk at Maple Grange Park NEXT Wednesday, May 20th from 4:30-5:30pm**. We will meet in the first parking lot and determine our route based on the group. You're invited to **wear your 'Live Generously T-shirt'**. All ages are welcome!

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, May 23rd we will be hosting a Community Yard Sale in our parking lot from **9am-2pm**. Spots are \$30. You keep what you sell; you bring a table, chairs, tent, etc. Spots with table and chairs set up for you are \$50—limited number available. Call the office or **sign-up** on the sheet in the narthex **to reserve your spot**. Contact Claire Speroni for more info.

Vacuum Volunteer: Volunteers are needed to vacuum at church **between May 24th – June 5th**. Please **sign up** on the chart. Thank you!

Vernon Day-Church Booth: **Vernon Day is Saturday, June 13th from 11am-4pm** with set up and tear down before and after. We will be having a church table! **If you are available to help volunteer at the table, please contact Emilie Dupont.**

Outside Worship: Begins next Sunday, May 24th and continues through Labor Day weekend. 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 please arrive around 8:45am. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School: Register today for God's Good Creation VBS this summer **July 20th-23rd from 1-4pm** at myvbs.org/hclvernon

Plastic Bag & Film Recycling Program: **We are starting our 2nd round of collection for another bench!** [Review this list](#) for items that can be donated and those that cannot be. Collect your plastic films at home and bring it in.

AED Donations: Our AED expired and a grant was obtained to help cover the costs of a new one! The outstanding cost not covered by the grant is \$1,349.98. If you would like to **donate to help cover the cost of the new AED** please note 'AED' with your donation.

Food Pantry Donation Drive: Please take a suggested donation slip from the basket in the narthex and return your donated items by May 30th

Food Pantry: Food items to help restock: canned tuna, boxed cereal, canned chili, canned corn, canned green beans, peanut butter, jelly, children's juice boxes or pouches, 4-pack toilet paper and body wash. 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!



Contact Information

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Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org

Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

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

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.

