

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

+ June 28, 2026 +  
10:00 am



**Redeemer Lutheran Church**

300 O'Neal Road  
Greer, South Carolina  
Office (864) 877-5876

## LIFE IN CHRIST INCLUDES PRAISE AND LAMENT

Though we may prefer to think of God giving us lives of joy and ease, a full life in Christ also includes sorrow and grief. To the extent we are willing to acknowledge God's presence in every circumstance, our faith becomes integrated and sustainable through a lifetime.

The texts for today offer a survey of faith-full moments for the people of God, from arguably the most disturbing story in all our scriptures (Genesis 22; semicontinuous series) to the proclamation of God's everlasting faithfulness (Psalms 89 and 13).

Does our worship avoid faithful lament?

Marked by transformation as clear and life and death (Romans 6), the disciple naturally embodies the gospel of Jesus Christ. Like it or not, this includes moments of sadness, grief, and betrayal that were very much a part of Jesus' faithful journey. If our lives are identified with Christ, disciples can name both joys and sorrows as dimensions of Christ's story and purpose.

The greatest challenge of faith for most Christians is the moment of suffering, so this day invites us to practice faithful lament. In an age of denial when difficult things are swept under the rug, we may resist the idea that God wants anything to do with suffering. Our scriptures, however, ensure we do not avoid earth-bound realities. The psalmist wails a prayer in faith that not only laments abandonment by God but also confesses God's steadfast love (Psalm 13; semicontinuous series). The story of Abraham and Isaac haunts our imaginations when we expect God to make life easy.

Worship calls us to faithfully lament as well as praise. Let today be a service of full-hearted proclamation of the depths of life in Christ.



Ministers  
Pastor  
Parish Administrator  
Director of Music Ministries

The People of Redeemer  
The Rev. Elise T. Stringer  
Mrs. Jackie Pitts  
Mrs. Donna Cotter

**Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.**

**WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US** this Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have any questions, our ushers will be happy to help you.

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME**, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts at (864) 877-5876.

**THE WELCOME OF BAPTISM IS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.** This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

**WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD  
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.  
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

*The prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

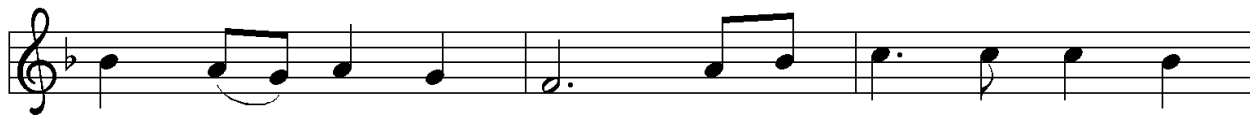
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 stran-ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

## 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.**

## KYRIE

ELW p. 203



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 204



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*We Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Elise Stringer

### WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

#### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17). (not read aloud)*

A reading from Jeremiah Chapter 28:

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

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

#### **PSALM: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

*Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)*

- <sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;  
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.
- <sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;**  
**you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**
- <sup>3</sup>"I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;  
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

- <sup>4</sup> I will establish your | line forever,  
and preserve your throne for all | generations.' "**
- <sup>15</sup> Happy are the people who know the | festal shout!  
They walk, O LORD, in the light | of your presence.
- <sup>16</sup> They rejoice daily | in your name;  
they are jubilant | in your righteousness.**
- <sup>17</sup> For you are the glory | of their strength,  
and by your favor our might | is exalted.
- <sup>18</sup> Truly, our shield belongs | to the LORD;  
our king to the Holy | One of Israel.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23**

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life. (not read aloud)*

A reading from Romans Chapter 6:

<sup>12</sup> Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you obey their desires. <sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted <sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

**THE SERMON**

**Rev. Elise Stringer**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS OF LIFE*    ELW #719  
*(printed on next page)*

# Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide;  
oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
and follow where your feet have trod;  
till glorious from your heav'n above  
shall come the city of our God.

## APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of 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. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Offered by the Assisting Minister*

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

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We pray especially for those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places. 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.**

## PEACE

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

*We share a sign of peace with others as we are comfortable. We sit.*



Kairos Confirmation Camp at Lutheridge was a big hit this year. From left to right: Courtney Childers, Armands Ceips, Jones Stringer, Logan Childers, Anna Smith, Ava Ceips, and Pastor Elise.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

MUSICAL OFFERING      *JUST AS I AM*      Al Ludwigson & Sarah Owens, Duet

### OFFERING HYMN

#### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

*Offered by the Assisting minister and congregation.*

Let us pray: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The Presiding Minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.*

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 our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW #207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover  
from death to life, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN:

*LAMB OF GOD*

ELW p. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*Congregation is encouraged to sing.*

*FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN  
LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK*

ELW #494

ELW #676

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*Please stand.*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Offered by Assisting Minister.*

Let us pray: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### REDEEMER'S MISSION

Redeemer's Mission is: **A lifelong family ministry of God's love!**

**SENDING HYMN**    *LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK*  
*(printed on next page)*

ELW #676

### DISMISSAL

*Offered by Assisting Minister.*

Heaven has come near. Go, share the Good News! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### POSTLUDE

**Donna Cotter, Organist**



**THANK YOU** Brian Melegari for renovating our storage building. It looks brand new!

# Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in  
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the  
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the  
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that  
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that  
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.  
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y\_a heart.  
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.  
 Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

## Serving Today

<b>Ushers:</b>	Tom Lewis and Phil Rhoads
<b>Greeters:</b>	John and Sharon Fouke
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Pat Kirchman
<b>Lector 1:</b>	Janet Thomas
<b>Lector 2:</b>	Kyle Henderson
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Poppy Lanning
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Aurie Dill
<b>Cantor:</b>	Heather Hester
<b>Counters:</b>	Kevin Koger, Harold Neel, and Donna Norman
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Paula Ludwigson
<b>Flowers:</b>	Given by Elaine Rietz in memory of Dr. Robert Rietz
<b>Sheepdog:</b>	Sonny Lybrand, Chris Felicia, and Tom Lewis
<b>Nursery:</b>	Liz Miller and Lily Childers

## Serving Next Week -July 5, 2026

<b>Ushers:</b>	Chuck Pegram and Chase Dill
<b>Greeters:</b>	Wade and Barbara Tate
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Phil Rhoads
<b>Lector 1:</b>	Brook Bristow
<b>Lector 2:</b>	Cindy Martin
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Hannah Hester
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Harper Meloon
<b>Cantor:</b>	Cecelia Robbins
<b>Counters:</b>	Kevin Koger, Harold Neel, and Donna Norman
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Tom and Joyce Frid
<b>Flowers:</b>	Given by the Lybrand Family in honor of Kathy Lybrand
<b>Sheepdog:</b>	Tom Lewis, BJ King, and JJ Johnson
<b>Nursery:</b>	Jenny Wiggers and Tyndall Stringer

## NOTES