

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - July 5, 2026

*Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life*

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### INTRODUCTION

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

**SERVING TODAY:** *Presider/Preacher: Pastor Chad Huebner; Organist: Bekah Davenport; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Asst/Lector: Steve Chikosky; Livestream: Doug Debrick, Dan Snoddy; Greeter: JoAnn Ball; Ushers: Linda Batey, Marilyn Shealy; Time with Children: Eli Nisly; Acolyte: Eliza; Tray Server: Sue Urano*

### WELCOME

**(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)**

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort Ancient cultures.*

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**

**In Christ's name we pray,**

**Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me,  
 all you who are weary  
 and are carrying heavy burdens,  
 and I will give you rest."  
 In the name of God,  
 Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 your sins are forgiven.  
 Rest in God's love.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**                      *What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)*



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886  
 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

**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**


*Assistant:* In peace, in peace,

**Refrain**

*Assistant:* *Congregation:*



Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have




mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Detailed description: The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The Assistant's part consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, then B4, and continues with quarter notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have". The second staff continues the melody: G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The lyrics are: "mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy." The piece ends with a double bar line and the instruction "to Verses".

*Assistant:* For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)


*Assistant:* For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

*Assistant:*



Help, save and de - fend us, O

*Congregation:*



God. A - men.

Detailed description: The Assistant's part is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, then B4, and continues with quarter notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us, O". The Congregation's part is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, then B4, and continues with quarter notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are: "God. A - men." The piece ends with a double bar line.



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> **LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup> that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.  
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

<sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day by Day (ELW 790)



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort  
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and  
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx-ious soul. Day by day, the bless-ings, Lord, you send me  
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me  
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n-ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all  
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,  
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,  
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005  
Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882  
Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

**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

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.....

O Faithful God, as we celebrate Independence Day, we pray for our democracy that all citizens may truly take part. Grant wisdom and integrity to our president, vice-president, and all government officials so they will make decisions to promote equity, justice, and peace. Remind us to be grateful for the freedoms we enjoy, especially the ability to worship without persecution. We pray for those who don't have basic freedoms. Keep them safe and help them gain their rights to speak and worship freely. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Savior Christ, you have set us free. Lead us to repent from our selfishness and instead focus on serving our neighbors regardless of race, economic class, sexual orientation, age, or gender. Your Word reminds us that You made us all in Your image. Help us to love and respect every person as we strive to reflect your mercy and grace. Bless all pastors, bishops, and lay church leaders. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Creator God, thank you for all the ways you bless us with bountiful gifts. Guide us to share our abundance with those in need. Inspire us to be careful stewards of your beautiful world, teaching us to care for everything in the Earth and to use your resources wisely. Empower us to identify and use our talents to the fullest. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other happy occasions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Loving Father, we pray that your Spirit of Peace will spread throughout our broken world. Bring your blessed serenity to places where chaos and violence reign, so that your peace may prevail instead. Bestow the spirit of compromise and tolerance on all leaders, so they will end war, torture, and revenge. Protect and comfort all who serve in the military, veterans, and their families. We also pray for all refugees and that the people of Venezuela will find survivors, heal from their trauma, and receive the aid they need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Healer, we pray for all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore them to wholeness. Give strength to those dealing with long-term diagnoses, such as depression, addiction, and dementia. Bless all medical researchers with the wisdom to find cures. Grant patience and skill to all caregivers, so they may provide the best care and compassion. Bring joy and comfort to our elderly loved ones and shut ins. Remind us that you know our suffering and are always with us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God of compassion, listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Comforter, we pray for those to whom death draws near and give thanks for all who have died. Rest your peace, strength, and hope on their family and friends who mourn. Remind us of the promise of eternal life with you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

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**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

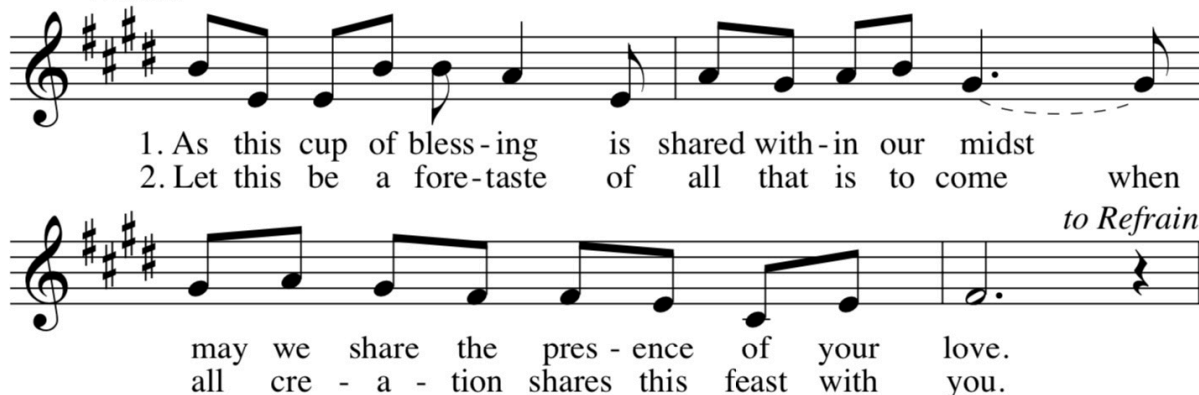
**Refrain**

*Congregation:*



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.

**Verses**



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
*to Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

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**

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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God,

bles, heal, and hold you

today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

**Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)**



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

**DISMISSAL**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**