



Feast of Victory Lutheran Church
4400 Mount Hope Rd., Acme, MI 49610
feastofvictory.org
231-938-1070

Sunday, July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Communion

**PREACHING/PRESIDING MINISTER, PASTOR HALEY VAY BEAMAN
ASSISTING MINISTER, CAYLYN MOGLIA
MUSICIAN, CLIFF KELTO**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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,
Creator, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
May you rest in God's love.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES, ELW 888

This beloved hymn gives thanks for the beauty of God's creation and the blessings of our nation. Its prayerful verses also remind us that God's grace continually calls us to seek liberty, justice, compassion, and the common good for all.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Beautiful for Spacious Skies'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the upper staff (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line in the lower staff (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system covers the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the remaining two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:
who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

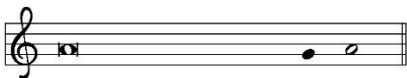
and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



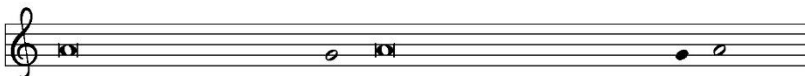
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



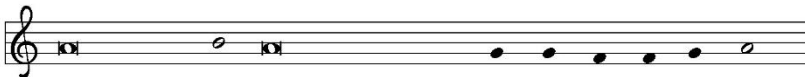
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Senior Choir Anthem, *This is My Song*

This hymn gives thanks for the love we have for our own country while reminding us that God loves every nation and every people. Its prayer for peace invites us to seek justice, compassion, and unity throughout God's world.

- 1 This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
- 2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
- 3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ 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. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NOISY OFFERING

The Noisy Offering supports the Community Needs Fund and we collect Pennies from Heaven for ELCA World Hunger; these are collected in bread pans often by our children serving in worship.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The gospel for The Sixth Sunday of Pentecost is from the gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the 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.”

²⁵At 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; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All 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.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – Pastor Haley Vay Beaman

Sermon– Pentecost 6A – Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Pastor Haley Vay Beaman

July 5, 2026

There is something powerful about gathering for worship on a weekend when our nation celebrates its birthday. The Fourth of July often brings memories of fireworks, cookouts, parades, Cherry Fest of course, and songs that remind us of the story we share.

Our hymns today carry some of those themes. We sing of spacious skies and beautiful lands. We sing of a love for our home while remembering that God's love extends far beyond any humanmade border. We sing that in Christ there is no east or west—no dividing line that can separate God's children from one another.

And into our context, Jesus speaks these words:

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

And speaking of context, it's interesting that Jesus speaks these words after a moment of frustration. When Jesus says this, it's immediately after he compares the people of his generation to children sitting in a marketplace, think the farmers market, Meijer, Toms, complaining no matter what they are given. He says, John the Baptist came with a serious message, and people dismissed him. Jesus came eating and drinking with people, welcoming sinners and outsiders, and people criticized him for that too.

So what is Jesus telling us? Sometimes I like to answer this question by considering what Jesus is **not saying** first. When Jesus says, “Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Notice what Jesus does **not** say.

He doesn't say, "Come after you've fixed yourself."

He doesn't say, "Come once you've stopped struggling."

He simply says, "Come to me."

The wonderful thing about Jesus' invitation is that it is always in the present tense.

Could it be...that *sometimes we become so focused on what **we want and expect...** that we miss what God is doing right in front of us.*

We live in a world where many people are carrying heavy burdens. Some carry the weight of loneliness. Some carry grief. Some carry fear about the future. Some carry the exhaustion of trying to hold it all together.

And into our lives, Jesus does not point a finger saying, "Try harder."

Jesus does not say, "You can come to me once you've earned it."

Jesus says, "Come."

And we are reminded that a life of true discipleship begins not with our ability to carry the weight of the world, but with God's promise that Christ carries us. (Read Poem: Footsteps in the Sand (1939, by Mary Stevenson)

Much earlier, in the 1500s, Martin Luther described this beautifully: *we are not saved because we have finally become good enough for God. We are saved because God's grace reaches us exactly where we are.*

That is the freedom Jesus offers.

Not freedom from responsibility. Not freedom from caring about our neighbor. Our Christian neighbor, Muslim or Jewish neighbor, our citizen or foreign neighbor... **But freedom from the impossible burden of believing that it all depends on us to get it right.**

As we mark the 250th anniversary of the United States, **perhaps one of the greatest gifts the church can offer is a reminder that freedom is always a gift and always a calling.**

It takes sacrifice and it takes courage.

A desire for freedom in Christ comes from knowing the painful depths of being captive... to the sin of this world... and unable to free ourselves.

And it is trusting in the promises of God who always sets the captive free.

Freedom invites, and perhaps implores us, to ask:

- Who still carries heavy burdens?
- Who still longs to be no longer be excluded?
- Who still needs a cup of cold water, a listening ear, or a place at the table?

Because Jesus says, “Come to me.”

And when we come to Christ, we discover that **we are not only people receiving grace—we become the people who share it.**

We become the ones who offer rest.

We become the ones who seek out the vulnerable and welcome the excluded.

We become the ones who work for justice and peace.

So this weekend, we give thanks for the abundance of blessings we have received. We remember the beauty God has provided around us. We pray for our nation and our world.

And we return to the invitation at the center of our faith:

“Come to me, all you who are weary.”

Because in Christ, there is a freedom deeper than anything we can ever create on our own—a freedom rooted in grace, a freedom that gathers us together, and a freedom that sends us into the world with love.

A love so deep and wide, **we** cannot limit or contain it. **And because we** have been entrusted with this gift of life, freedom (liberty), and the pursuit of health and happiness, well, **wouldn't Jesus want us to share it?**

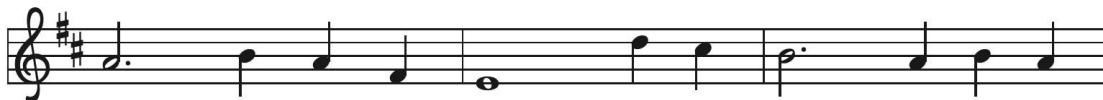
Thanks be to God. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:
COME TO ME, O WEARY TRAVELER, ACS 1017**

This hymn echoes Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28–30 to all who are weary and burdened. It reminds us that Christ welcomes us with grace, offers rest for our souls, and gathers us into a community of hope, peace, and unity.



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
 fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
 yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
 me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
 fore you; do not run from me in fright."
 side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
 gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

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

After each petition, the congregation responds by saying "**Receive our prayer.**"

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

THE OFFERING

Weekly giving may be placed in the round collection plate that is distributed by our ushers. Thank you for your faithful giving that supports the ministry we share.

OFFERING MUSIC

**OFFERTORY:
LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL, ELW 184**



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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE 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

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

DISTRIBUTION

There is a place for you at the table where we receive Christ's Real Presence. Please follow the directions of ushers and pastor for coming to the altar. If coming forward is a challenge, please let an usher know so that we can meet you where you are with Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing in place of bread, please cross your arms over your chest so the pastor will know. Gluten-free wafers are available, and you may indicate your preference to the pastor when you come forward. Red wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. As you return to your seat, you will find a small basket on the table in which to place your empty cup.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION HYMN: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, ELW 841

This beloved hymn honors African American history while offering a timeless prayer of thanksgiving to God. Proclaiming hope in the midst of struggle, it bears witness to God's faithful presence and calls us to continue the journey toward liberty, justice, and reconciliation for all.

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE, ELW 207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



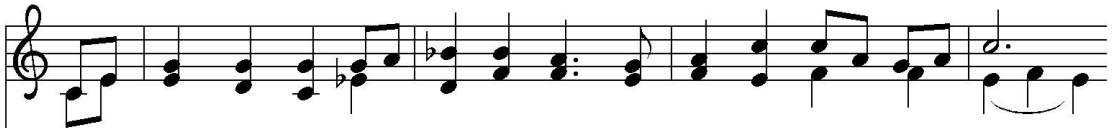
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

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.

**SENDING HYMN:
IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST, ELW 650**

This hymn proclaims that Christ breaks down the barriers that divide us, calling people of every nation and culture into one family of faith. As we reflect on freedom and unity, it reminds us that our deepest belonging is found in Christ's love, which embraces all people.



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO FEAST OF VICTORY: If you are a guest, we invite you to please sign your name and some form of contact info in our Guest Book, located on the wall desk near the office door entrance, and join us for our fellowship time after our worship service so that we can get to know one another. We are glad that you are worshipping with us today either in person or on Zoom. If you would like to speak with our Pastor, schedule a home visit, unite with our congregation, or receive Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Haley Vay in our church office (231-938-1070).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND WELCOME CARDS: As Jesus welcomes us and prays for us, so we also welcome and pray for one another. There are Prayer Request and Welcome Cards located on the table to the left as you enter the front doors of the building. If you have a prayer request, please fill out a card and give it to the Assisting Minister or Pastor if you would like your prayer read aloud in worship, or to Pastor if your request is confidential. If you are visiting...*welcome!* Please consider filling out a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate or give it to our Pastor, so that we may stay connected.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated each Sunday. We believe that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. It is Jesus who serves us, bringing us forgiveness of sins, faith and new life, and hope for eternal life. All are welcome to receive the gift of faith and forgiveness that Jesus offers. Please let the Pastor know if you would prefer gluten-free bread, and if you prefer white grape juice instead of wine.

WAYS TO GIVE: We are thankful for the financial support we receive to carry out God's mission and ministry in the life of our congregation and the wider church. If you are able and would like to contribute, we welcome and encourage you to do so by using any of the following ways to give:

1. Go to www.feastofvictory.org/give, or visit our website and click the "Give" button to set up a one-time or recurring gift either by credit or debit card or by electronic transfer from your checking account.
2. Mail a check to Feast of Victory Lutheran Church.
3. Place your offering in the round plates distributed by our ushers.

We give thanks to God for your gifts that support the ministry we share.

FELLOWSHIP AFTER OUR WORSHIP SERVICE: Special time has been set aside each Sunday following worship for refreshments and conversation. We welcome and encourage you to stay and connect in faith community.

NURSERY AVAILABLE: We have a nursery available for parents and small children. It is located in the last room on the right of the main hallway.

STAY CONNECTED on Facebook @FeastOfVictoryELCA and check out what's happening, ways to get involved, and watch recordings of worship on our website: www.feastofvictory.org. You may also pick up a copy of our Church Newsletter, "Feast Your Eyes" at the welcome table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School for children takes place during worship after the Children's message. Teachers will lead children to our fellowship hall for a lesson and activity, then return to the sanctuary for Communion. Please be mindful that children age 3 and under, or those not yet toilet trained, will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

HEARING ASSIST: If using a hearing assistance device would make worship more accessible for you, please visit our AV room located just outside the sanctuary and we will gladly help you get connected.



Presiding/Preaching Minister: Pastor Haley Vay Beaman
Assisting Minister: Caylyn Moglia
Acolyte: Beau Gutowski
Musician: Cliff Kelto
Flute: Mette Kelto
Reader: DJ Varon
Greeter: RuthAnn Leppala
Usher: Doug Satow
Communion: Dale Claudepierre
AV Operator: Frank Butz
Coffee Host: Doug & Julie Satow, Dale Claudepierre & Melynda Bagley

Altar flowers this week are given in celebration of our nation, by DJ Varon.

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