

**Stewardship 2025  
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,  
Today and  
Tomorrow**

**Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP  
Second Sunday after Pentecost  
June 22nd, 2025  
9:00 AM Traditional Worship**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones    **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman  
**Organist/Pianist:** Michelle Bolstad  
**Guest Preacher:** Scott Geister-Jones  
**Lector:** Cindy Flory  
**Acolytes:** Autumn Wendorf & Olivia Hays  
**Ushers:** Sue Walls, Sandra Maerz, Sue Weum and Sharon Manson  
**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**P:** Merciful God,

**C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own**

way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

**P:** You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**C: Amen.**

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Will You Come and Follow Me" ELW #798 vs. 1,2 & 5**

**Vs. 1: "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**

**Vs. 2: "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"**

**Vs. 5: Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

## **GREETING**

**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.**

## **LITANY**

**P:** You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**C: a people holy to the LORD our God.**

**P:** Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you**

**lie down and when you rise.**

**P: One does not live by bread alone,**

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Count Your Blessings"**

**Vs. 1: When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

**Refrain: Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**

**Vs. 2: Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by. *Refrain...***

**SALUTATION**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**C: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P: Let us pray.**

**C: O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

*Sit*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9**

<sup>1-7</sup> "I've made myself available to those who haven't bothered to ask. I'm here, ready to be found by those who haven't bothered to look. I kept saying 'I'm here, I'm right here' to a nation that ignored me. I reached out day after day to a people who turned their backs on me, People who make wrong turns, who insist on doing things their own way. They get on my nerves, are rude to my

face day after day, Make up their own kitchen religion, a potluck religious stew. They spend the night in tombs to get messages from the dead, Eat forbidden foods and drink a witch's brew of potions and charms. They say, 'Keep your distance. Don't touch me. I'm holier than thou.' These people gag me. I can't stand their stench. Look at this! Their sins are all written out— I have the list before me. I'm not putting up with this any longer. I'll pay them the wages. They have coming for their sins. And for the sins of their parents lumped in, a bonus." God says so. "Because they've practiced their blasphemous worship, mocking me at their hillside shrines, I'll let loose the consequences and pay them in full for their actions." <sup>8-9</sup>"But just as one bad apple doesn't ruin the whole bushel, there are still plenty of good apples left. So I'll preserve those in Israel who obey me. I won't destroy the whole nation. I'll bring out my true children from Jacob and the heirs of my mountains from Judah. My chosen will inherit the land, my servants will move in. The lush valley of Sharon in the west will be a pasture for flocks, And in the east, the valley of Achor, a place for herds to graze.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Thy Word"**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side,  
And I will love you to the end.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39**

<sup>26-29</sup>They sailed on to the country of the Gerasenes, directly opposite Galilee. As he stepped out onto land, a madman from town met him; he was a victim of demons.

He hadn't worn clothes for a long time, nor lived at home; he lived in the cemetery. When he saw Jesus he screamed, fell before him, and howled, "What business do you have messing with me? You're Jesus, Son of the High God, but don't give me a hard time!" (The man said this because Jesus had started to order the unclean spirit out of him.) Time after time the demon threw the man into convulsions. He had been placed under constant guard and tied with chains and shackles, but crazed and driven wild by the demon, he would shatter the bonds. <sup>30-31</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Mob. My name is Mob," he said, because many demons afflicted him. And they begged Jesus desperately not to order them to the bottomless pit. <sup>32-33</sup> A large herd of pigs was grazing and rooting on a nearby hill. The demons begged Jesus to order them into the pigs. He gave the order. It was even worse for the pigs than for the man. Crazed, they stampeded over a cliff into the lake and drowned. <sup>34-36</sup> Those tending the pigs, scared to death, bolted and told their story in town and country. People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had been sent, sitting there at Jesus' feet, wearing decent clothes and making sense. It was a holy moment, and for a short time they were more reverent than curious. Then those who had seen it happen told how the demoniac had been saved. <sup>37-39</sup> Later, a great many people from the Gerasene countryside got together and asked Jesus to leave—too much change, too fast, and they were scared. So Jesus got back in the boat and set off. The man whom he had delivered from the demons asked to go with him, but he sent him back, saying, "Go home and tell everything God did in you." So he went back and preached all over town everything Jesus had done in him.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

**SERMON: "The Dead Are Given New Life"**

*Stand*

**HYMN: "One Bread, One Body" ELW #496**

**Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing which we bless,  
and we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**Vs. 1: Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 2: Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all. *Refrain...***

### **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 INTERCESSION**

**P:** Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A Brief Silence*

**P:** We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who

delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence. When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick. Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

### **OFFERTORY**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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**

**P: The Kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice. The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.**

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and**



proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## **ANOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

### **BLESSING**

**P:** The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **SENDING HYMN: "Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" ELW #545**

**Vs.1:** Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

**Vs. 2:** Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound.  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

**Vs. 3:** Savior, when your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

## **POSTLUDE**