

**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  
Third Sunday after Pentecost  
June 29th 2025  
9:00 AM Traditional Worship**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones    **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman  
**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz    **Lector:** Quinlan Harrington  
**Acolytes:** Ellie Gross & Caitlyn Helm  
**Ushers:** David Olson & Mya Sehmer  
**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus’ call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit’s fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Built on a Rock” by Lindeman/Porter**

**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: "Built on a Rock" ELW #652 Vs. 1, 3 & 4**

**Vs. 1: Built on a rock the church shall stand,  
even when steeples are falling;  
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,  
bells still are chiming and calling—  
calling the young and old to rest,  
calling the souls of those distressed,  
longing for life everlasting.**

**Vs. 3: Christ builds a house of living stones:  
we are his own habitation;  
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,  
granting us life and salvation.  
Where two or three will seek his face,  
he in their midst will show his grace,  
blessings upon them bestowing.**

**Vs. 4: Yet in this house, an earthly frame,  
Jesus the children is blessing;  
hither we come to praise his name,  
faith in our Savior confessing.  
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,  
making with us his covenant,  
granting his children the kingdom.**

## **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 a 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:** Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Sit*

**FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**

<sup>15-18</sup>God said, “Go back the way you came through the desert to Damascus. When you get there anoint Hazael; make him king over Aram. Then anoint Jehu son of Nimshi; make him king over Israel. Finally, anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>19</sup> Elijah went straight out and found Elisha son of Shaphat in a field where there were twelve pairs of yoked oxen at work plowing; Elisha was in charge of the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak over him. <sup>20</sup> Elisha deserted the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Please! Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye—then I’ll follow you.” “Go ahead,” said Elijah, “but, mind you, don’t forget what I’ve just done to you.” <sup>21</sup> So Elisha left; he took his yoke of oxen and butchered them. He made a fire with the plow and tackle and then boiled the meat—a true farewell meal for the family. Then he left and followed Elijah, becoming his right-hand man.

**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 John the 16<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62**

<sup>51-54</sup>When it came close to the time for his Ascension, he gathered up his courage and steeled himself for the journey to Jerusalem. He sent messengers on ahead. They came to a Samaritan village to make arrangements for his hospitality. But when the Samaritans learned that his destination was Jerusalem, they refused

hospitality. When the disciples James and John learned of it, they said, “Master, do you want us to call a bolt of lightning down out of the sky and incinerate them?” <sup>55-56</sup> Jesus turned on them: “Of course not!” And they traveled on to another village. <sup>57</sup> On the road someone asked if he could go along. “I’ll go with you, wherever,” he said. <sup>58</sup> Jesus was curt: “Are you ready to rough it? We’re not staying in the best inns, you know.” Jesus said to another, “Follow me.” <sup>59</sup> He said, “Certainly, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father’s funeral.” <sup>60</sup> Jesus refused. “First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent: Announce God’s kingdom!” <sup>61</sup> Then another said, “I’m ready to follow you, Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said, “No procrastination. No backward looks. You can’t put God’s kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day.”

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

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

*Sit*

## **SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” ELW #324 Vs. 1, 2 & 4**

**Vs. 1: In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.**

**All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**

**Vs. 2: When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**Vs. 4: Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

## **HOLY BAPTISM page 227 ELW**

Baptized today is Sadie Soderling, daughter of Jason and Kristin Soderling.

## **APOSTLE’S CREED**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

**P:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord?

**C: 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.**

**P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?**

**C: 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: Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of  
your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send  
us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace**

**,C: hear our prayer.**

**P: Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds,  
the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of  
the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P: Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable  
to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and  
respond to the people they govern. God of grace,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence (*especially*). Give all your fullness of joy.  
God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries (*local ministries may be named*). Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life.  
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 Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING: "Making Their Way" by Valerius**

### **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.**

### **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.

## **ANNOUCEMENTS**

*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: "Guide My Feet" ACS: #987**

**Vs. 1: Guide my feet while I run this race. (3 times)**  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.

**Vs. 2: Hold my hand while I run this race. (3 times)**  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.

**Vs. 3: Stand by me while I run this race. (3 times)**  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.

**Vs. 4: I'm your child while I run this race. (3 times)**  
for I don't want to run this race in vain.

### **POSTLUDE: "Lift High the Cross" by Nicholson/Eggers**