

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Thank you for worshipping with us today! If you are visiting, please fill out one of our welcome cards by the offering boxes so we can get to know you better. If you would like to share a prayer request, you may do so on a card and place it in the box.

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Sing for Joy,” arr. Lura Foster

GATHERING

Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

Confession

As we read through Philippians in the weeks ahead, we will begin our worship with a time of confession based on Paul’s letter to this church.

In Philippians 1:27, Paul writes to “live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” We know that, apart from the Holy Spirit at work among us, we can never be worthy of the gospel of Christ. As we often confess, we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Take a moment to acknowledge before God your unworthiness.

In Philippians 2:3, Paul calls us to make his joy complete in this way, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” This cuts to the heart of our sin, putting ourselves first, before others, and even before God. Take a moment to confess this lack of humility in your life and ask God for forgiveness.

God’s forgiveness does not come through our works. There is nothing you can say or do to earn God’s grace. As Paul says in Philippians 3:9, “we do not have a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ.” Take a moment to sit in the presence of God and be washed in the gift of God’s grace and love for you.

God has good news for you! As a called and ordained minister and by Christ's authority, I declare to you that God forgives you of all of your sin. As Paul writes in Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Take a moment to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness.

In the forgiveness of God, you are given new life, reconciled to God and one another. Live freely in gratitude to God and in peace with one another. As Paul writes in Philippians 4:7, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." We now share this peace with one another. It is more than a casual greeting. It is a sacred act of reconciliation and grace.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Let us share this peace of Christ with one another.

**Gathering Song – "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"*

Refrain: Come, now is the time to worship.

Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains for those,

Who gladly trust you now. Refrain

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise: "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy"

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,

Down in my heart, down in my heart,

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,

Down in my heart to stay.

Refrain: And I'm so happy, so very happy; I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

And I'm so happy, so very happy; I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

**I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart
Down in my heart, down in my heart,
I've got the peace that passes understanding down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay. *Refrain***

**I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart
Down in my heart, down in my heart,
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay. *Refrain***

WORD

Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Reader: Kelly Hartz

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* John 3:13-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

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

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: “The Christ Hymn”

Song of the Day – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” ELW 836

- 1 **Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 **All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**
- 3 **Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

**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*

Stewardship Time

"Make Me a Servant," by Kelly Willard
sung by the Faith Singers

Stewardship is the spiritual practice of responding to God's grace in generosity towards God and others. If you would like to give an offering today, you are invited to come forward and place it in an offering basket. If you would like to give electronically, you can use the provided QR code.



**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

“Jesus, Messiah”

**He became sin, who knew no sin; that we might become His righteousness;
He humbled himself, and carried the cross**

*Refrain: Love so amazing, love so amazing. Jesus Messiah; name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer. Emmanuel.*

The Rescue for sinners; the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

**His body the bread, His blood the wine broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn. Refrain**

**All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You; all the glory to You, God,
the Light of the World.**

*Jesus Messiah; name above all names; Blessed Redeemer. Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners; the Ransom from heaven; Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all. The Lord of all.*

“Day by Day” ELW 790

- 1 **Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.**

- 2 **Day by day, I know you will provide me
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.**

- 3 **Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: 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.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song – “Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”*

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fill my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy good-ness prove.**

**I was lost in utter darkness 'til you came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home.
Now your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.**

Refrain:

**Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.**

**O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.**

Refrain:

**Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.
Come, thou Fount, come, thou King; Come, thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear your bride, to you we sing, come, thou Fount of our blessing.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The altar plants are donated today by the Dichsen family
in gratitude to Moms

Song Credits

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“Jesus Messiah,” by Daniel Carson, Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, & Jesse Reeves, © 2008 Vamos Publishing.

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“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King,” by Thomas Miller. Used by permission.

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin

Greeter: Barb Fishback

Reader: Kelly Hartz

Usher: Liddy Stark

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Musician: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Kay Schnitker

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Hosts: Verla Buckner & Laura Sweatman

Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kevin Krohe

Monica Proefrock

Cory Street

Greg Kimler

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

John Williams



What’s Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, May 17, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship **Newsletter Deadline**

Tuesday, May 19, 2:00pm: Discipleship Core Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 20, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Thursday, May 21, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Sunday, May 24, 9:30am: Worship + Confirmation & Baptism
11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, May 27, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Summer Worship Schedule

Our Worship Team and Council continue to strive to listen to our congregation as we plan our worship. Recently, they have heard how much we value our blended services where we worship together and have also requested more outdoor services. As a result, they have decided to alternate between outdoor and indoor worship services through the summer with one blended service each Sunday. Magnets with the summer schedule are available to help keep us all on track. **We will be outdoors again on May 31, and indoors on May 24.** As always, outdoor services will move indoors in poor weather, and we have solid-surface seating available on the parking lot and air-conditioned seating indoors in the Justice Room.

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon (when we are inside) and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion. There are coloring pages available for outside services.

Celebrating our Graduates

Is someone in your family graduating this spring? If so, we'd like to celebrate with them! Please tell us their name, school, degree, any future plans, and send us a photo.

Doorbell Dinners - May 25-29

Thank you to all who signed up to help with Doorbell Dinners – you are a blessing!

Spring Altar Flowers for Faith's Gardens

We are purchasing plants or flowers for the altar that will then be planted in our church gardens. If you would like to donate a plant, the cost is \$15, and you can sign up at the podium in the Gathering Area.

VBS

Have you seen all the kids around here?! Our Faith Family is growing and we want to provide some wonderful education and fellowship for our children, youth, and their families. This summer, we will be providing a Vacation Bible School program for children of all ages. Instead of a single week, we will be offering a variety of days through the summer in hopes to involve more children and volunteers. Our Discipleship Core Team is beginning the planning and is looking for help. Not only are we welcoming those interested in planning, but also volunteers to assist with games, dramas, crafts, music, and meals. Contact anyone on our Discipleship Core Team to offer your help: Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, Celeste Hill, and Pastor Adam, **or indicate on the Sign-Up sheet at the Coffee Sales counter by the coat closet if you are interested in helping to plan, helping to lead games, music, crafts, music, or help provide meals, or if your children are interested in coming.** Dates will be determined soon.

Post-Service Discussions – Digging Deeper

Join Naomi Hahn and friends in the Justice Room after worship to dig deeper into the readings and sermon of the day. While we try to stay on topic, the Holy Spirit sometimes has her way and we find ourselves delving into all sorts of topics of faith and life... just as fruitful as the scriptures and sermon. It's a wonderful way to connect with others and grow in our faith seeking understanding. **During the summer schedule, we will be meeting only after the indoor services.**

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library.** We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin.

Youth Summer Camps

Our youth are participating in a number of summer camps. Here are some of their top recommendations:

Marilyn Dichsen and Adam Krohe love **Leadership Lab**, a camp for high school sophomores through adults at Augustana College in Rock Island. Ask them why they enjoy it so much, and consider joining them for a future camp!

Beckham and Kellon Oldenettel have long been involved with the **Western Illinois Youth Camp**. This summer, they have camps through all of June and July. Learn more and register at WIYC.NET. *(continued on next page)*

Benen and Louis Dichsen love **Performing Arts Camp (PAC)** at Green Pastures. It is for grades 5-12 to explore the arts through music, drama, improv, dance, and more. Louis plans to attend all three of the PAC camps this summer (June 12-13, 19-20, 26-27). Cost is \$50/camper. Ask them why they enjoy it so much and consider joining them. There is always room for more at these camps! Pastor Adam and Marilyn Dichsen are serving as counselors this year.

If needed, scholarships are available for **Performing Arts Camp**.

Registration link: <http://www.greenpasturesretreatcenter.org/registration>.

For more information call: 217-584-1374

Email: contact@greenpasturesretreatcenter.org