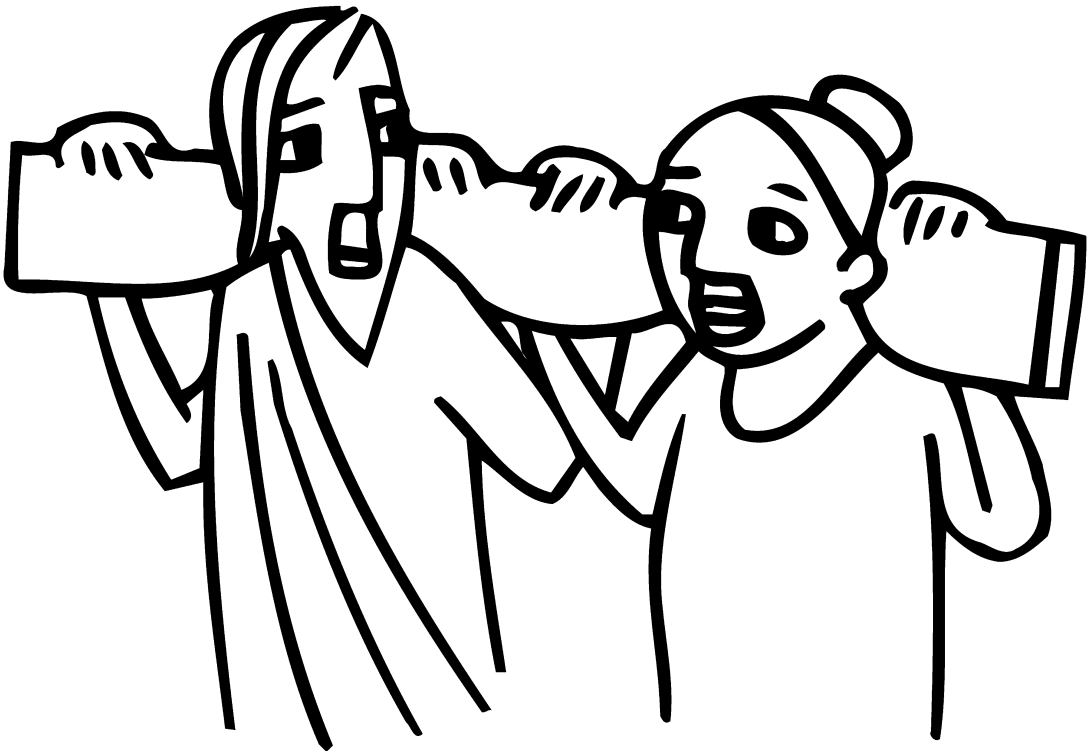


Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Lutheran Church

July 5, 2026
Pleasant Valley, Iowa

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.



Gathering and Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

God of all mercy,

we have sinned against you,

our neighbors, and your creation.

Within ourselves and our communities,

our desire to do what is good

is at war with the evil that dwells in us.

We lament the evil that holds us captive.

We repent of the evil we have done,

and the evil done on our behalf.

Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us

for lives of compassion and courage

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 893 – Before You Lord, We Bow

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.

Prayer of the Day

See Insert

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

See Insert

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

See Insert

Read responsively

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

See Insert

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

See Insert

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

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

Sermon – Pastor Stephen Nilsen

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 887 – This Is My Song

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

Each petition will end with:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Announcements and Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Meal

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Holy God, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign.

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines. Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom— freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the shalom that you have first shown to us.

Faithful God, loving God: Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

All are welcome to the table of the Lord.

COMMUNION SONG: ELW p. 208 – Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 891 – God Bless Our Native Land

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 888 – O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 650 – In Christ There Is No East or West

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.

Amen.

Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life

See Insert

Blessing

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ☩ one God, bless you
And equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 890 – Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Dismissal

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship This Week

Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Organist	Rachel Boussetot
Lector	Sally Morrow
Communion Assistant	Sally Morrow
Altar Guild	Mary Shelton
Ushers	Diane Cook
	Arnie Kaufmann
Worship Video/Livestream	Randy Goslin
Fellowship	Diane & Arnie Kaufmann

Serving in Worship Next Week July 12

Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Organist	Paul Madsen
Lector	Barb Paul
Communion Assistant	Lois Schurr
Altar Guild	Diana Mayes
Ushers	Wayne Holst
	Ron Morrow
Worship Video/Livestream	Randy Goslin
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed

Whether you're an experienced volunteer who has served every week for years, or a new member looking to get more involved, someone can always help you to figure out exactly how you could help our worship or fellowship. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We truly appreciate all our volunteers who make the life of this congregation possible.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Property	July 5	10:00 AM
Social Ministry	July 7	3:30 PM
Stewardship	July 13	5:00 PM
Council	July 13	6:00 PM

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES Join our lectionary Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 AM.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Nurses from Trinity will be available after worship in the main office to do a simple blood pressure check and discuss healthy living.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS WELCOME Trinity Food Pantry is open *Monday 9 -11 AM and Thursday 4-6 PM*. See Dane Crist for more info or sign up in the Narthex.

POTATOES ABOUND Trinity Food Pantry received a huge shipment of Idaho Russett potatoes as part of a truckload that came to Churches United of the Quad Cities. All are welcome to stop down at the Food Pantry and take as much as you would like. Share with family or friends! It's a great time of year for cheesy potatoes, cut them up into French fries or make arts and crafts with kids.

TRINITY ANTI-HUNGER GARDEN If you have a green thumb or if you are brand new to gardening and just want to help our neighbors in need, your help would be appreciated by the team that works on our Anti-Hunger Garden on the south side of the church building. See Dane Crist for more information.

FLUTTER PATCH New resurrection of life is coming up in the area formerly known as the Butterfly Garden! Native Iowa plants are being planted all the time, and you can help with watering or weeding if you are available. If you are interested in helping with this new life springing up, contact John Newman.

TRINITY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK *Friday, August 14 at 6:30 PM*. Trinity Night at the Ballpark for 2026 will be on Friday, August 14 at 6:30 PM with fireworks following the baseball game! We hope you can join us. Tickets will cost \$10 per person, but we'd like a headcount to know how many will attend in advance. Sign-up in the Narthex.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE TAKING FUND DISTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS Between now and July 31, the Endowment Committee is taking suggestions for programs, organizations, ministry or mission opportunities to distribute funds to for our annual distributions. The fund will distribute \$20,000 this year, and forms can be found on the Narthex bulletin board on in the weekly email. Thanks for your help!

Trinity Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9AM-1PM

Pastor Stephen's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10AM-2PM

Office phone: 563-332-5188 **Email:** office@trinitylcpv.com

Pastor office phone: 563-332-6432 **Cell:** 319-540-1172