

# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude – “His Eye Is On the Sparrow,” arr. Schrader, vocal ensemble*

## GATHERING

*Call to Worship*

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

**C: Amen.**

*Confession*

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

- 1 **This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.**
- 2 **This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**
- 3 **This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!**

*\*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.**

*\*Prayer of the Day*

P: Creator God, who lifted up the mountains and formed the dry land; whose hands shaped us out of the dust of the earth; who formed the soils and made this earth a place of beauty and abundance: We give you thanks for the gift of the land. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and all your gifts that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures, to the honor and glory of your holy name.

**C: Amen.**

*\*Sharing Christ's Peace*

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

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Children's Sermon*

**Lord of all creation, Of water, earth, and sky,  
The heavens are your tabernacle; glory to the Lord on high.**

*Refrain: God of wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;  
The universe declares your majesty. You are holy, holy;  
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.*

**Early in the morning I will celebrate the light.**

**When I stumble in the darkness I will call your name by night. *Refrain***

**Hallelujah! to the Lord of heaven and earth.  
Hallelujah! to the Lord of heaven and earth.  
Hallelujah! to the Lord of heaven and earth.**

*God of wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;  
Precious Lord, reveal your heart to me. Father, hold me, hold me.  
The universe declares your majesty. You are holy, holy, holy, holy!  
Hallelujah ...*

## WORD

*Reading:* Psalm 104

*Reader:* Terri Kimler

<sup>1</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, you are very great!  
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

<sup>2</sup> covering yourself with light as with a garment,  
stretching out the heavens like a tent.

<sup>3</sup> He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;  
he makes the clouds his chariot;

he rides on the wings of the wind;

<sup>4</sup> he makes his messengers winds,  
his ministers a flaming fire.

<sup>5</sup> He set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it should never be moved.

<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.

<sup>7</sup> At your rebuke they fled;  
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.

<sup>8</sup> The mountains rose, the valleys sank down  
to the place that you appointed for them.

<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.

<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills;

<sup>11</sup> they give drink to every beast of the field;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

<sup>12</sup> Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;  
they sing among the branches.

<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the livestock  
and plants for man to cultivate,

that he may bring forth food from the earth

<sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the heart of man,  
oil to make his face shine  
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

<sup>16</sup> The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

<sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has her home in the fir trees.

<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

<sup>19</sup> He made the moon to mark the seasons;  
the sun knows its time for setting.

<sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.

<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.

<sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they steal away  
and lie down in their dens.

- <sup>23</sup> Man goes out to his work  
and to his labor until the evening.
- <sup>24</sup> O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom have you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.
- <sup>25</sup> Here is the sea, great and wide,  
which teems with creatures innumerable,  
living things both small and great.
- <sup>26</sup> There go the ships,  
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.
- <sup>27</sup> These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.
- <sup>28</sup> When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- <sup>29</sup> When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.
- <sup>30</sup> When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.
- <sup>31</sup> May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works,
- <sup>32</sup> who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke!
- <sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- <sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
for I rejoice in the Lord.
- <sup>35</sup> Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and let the wicked be no more!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
Praise the Lord!

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

*\*Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:25-33*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup>But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

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

*Song— “Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom” (ACS 1064)*

*(piano)*

- 1 **Earth is full of wit and wisdom, sounding God's delighted laugh,  
from the tiny roly-poly to the treetop-tall giraffe.  
All creation sings in wonder; even rocks and trees rejoice  
as they join the ringing chorus: echoes of our Maker's voice.**
- 2 **Earth is full of wit and wisdom, woven into harmony.  
Ev'ry creature has a purpose, ev'ry flow'r and bumblebee.  
Spider, human, redwood, gecko, monkey, chicken, mouse, and snake  
live within a single fabric: cloth that only God could make.**
- 3 **Earth is full of wit and wisdom: penguin, platypus, and snail,  
cactus, sea slug, oak, and algae, from the microbe to the whale.  
In this great and strange creation, with a breath God gives us birth:  
born of soil to live as stewards, called to love and serve the earth.**

*Sermon: "The heavens proclaim the glory of God"*

*Song of the Day – “God of the Fertile Fields” (ACS 1063)*

*(organ)*

- 1 **God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:  
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in ev'ry land be clothed and fed.**
- 2 **We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give;  
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care  
for people ev'rywhere, that all may live.**
- 3 **As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.  
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused your love bestows.**
- 4 **God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.**

*\*The Apostles' Creed*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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*

Sandi Watts, *organist*

*—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—*

# 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*

“For the Beauty of the Earth” ELW 879 (organ)

- 1 **For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:**

*Refrain: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

- 2 **For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain***



- 3 **For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain***
- 4 **For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain***
- 5 **For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain***

“Beautiful Savior” ELW 838 *(piano)*

- 1 **Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
- 3 **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!**

*\*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 make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.  
C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “Forever”*

*(piano)*

**1. Give thanks to the Lord our God and King; his love endures forever.  
For he is good, he is above all things; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise.**

**2. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; his love endures forever.  
For the life that’s been reborn; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!**

*Refrain:* **Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,  
forever God is with us, forever.**

**3. From the rising to the setting sun his love endures forever.  
And by the grace of God we will carry on; his love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise! *Refrain***

*Ending:* **And ever, forever.**

*\*Dismissal*

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Worship Assistants**

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Lillian Korous

Reader: Terri Kimler

Usher: Pat Glyshaw

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Monica Proefrock

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



## Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street	

## Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

## Song Credits

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## What’s Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, July 20, 9:30am: Worship	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
10:45am: Church Council Meeting	
Sunday, July 27, 9:30am: Worship	<b>Friends from Faith</b>
Wednesday, July 30, 7:00pm: Music Rehearsal	

## 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!*

### Faith’s Little Flock

Faith's Little Flock will continue this summer during the 9:30 indoor services. Children will remain with their parents during the first Sunday of the month outdoor services. Class activity in July will continue Pastor Adam's Building theme, explore ways to see God in His creation this summer, and more!

Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up), and adults to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and to read the Bible story to the children. The children return to their parents during communion.

*(continued)*

Contact Melissa Street or Pam Devlin if you would like to help or take a turn running the class. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

Bible-themed word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults). We look forward to seeing the children this summer! Blessings, *Melissa*

### **Music at Faith**

As always, we would love to have more people involved in the music ministry at Faith. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts at our worship services – all are welcome! [jrwelch53@msn.com](mailto:jrwelch53@msn.com) or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

### **First Sunday Summer Worship Schedule**

Our first, first-Sunday worship was a joy as we enjoyed the beauty of God's creation outdoors with a contemporary service at 9:30 a.m. and the comforts of air-conditioning with a full traditional service at 11:00 a.m. Not only are these services set in different sanctuaries, but the style of worship is distinctly different. The outdoor contemporary service is more casual with a less scripted liturgy. The music selection includes some of our familiar contemporary songs, as well as those you may hear on the radio. The indoor traditional service is more formal with a sung liturgy from the familiar Lutheran Book of Worship (green hymnal). The music selection includes familiar hymns led on the organ. Our remaining first Sunday summer services will be held on **August 3 and September 7.**

### **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Dennis Backstrom and Elaine Chapman**

All are invited to celebrate with Dennis and Elaine on Sunday, August 10, from 2:00-5:00pm, 623 W. Savanna Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525. **Please RSVP by August 1** to [dobackesc@yahoo.com](mailto:dobackesc@yahoo.com) or 217-883-1732. No gifts, please.

### **Musical Musings**

Last year, during Pastor Adam's sermon series on "What is a Lutheran," volunteers presented introductions to hymns. They researched about the history and theology, helping us to appreciate the significance of each note and lyric. Sharon Zuiderveld and Naomi Hahn welcome you to join them in offering these musical musings again. Do you have a hymn or song you would recommend? Would you be willing to be a presenter? If so, let them know.

### **Faithful Innovations – Central/Southern IL Synod--ELCA**

**Faithful Innovation** is an invitation to deepen connections. It is a way to simplify, refocus, and reorient ourselves and towards God's activity. It is not another program, to-do list, or

thing to add on top of already busy schedules. Rather, it is a way of life, a journey of discovery that draws us back into core stories of the faith and deepens our capacity to be led by God.

So how does it work? Participation in ***Faithful Innovation*** requires a team of 3-5 congregation members, and their faith leader, to work with a trained coach from our synod for monthly gatherings. The faith leader does not lead the group but serves as an encourager along the way. **The guiding teams and coaches commit to three, in-person trainings on September 13, December 6, and March 14.**

While there is no cost to participate in the training, we do invite congregations to consider a donation of \$30 per participant to help cover the cost of 3 lunches and snacks. In between trainings, guiding teams will explore their communities, listen for where the Spirit may be calling them into action, and share stories about what is being learned.

Maybe you are curious, maybe you are ready to say “yes” to this exciting journey, or maybe you have more questions about this adventure. Wherever you are at, feel free to give me a call at 315-277-3703 or email me at [Jason.fisher@csis-elca.org](mailto:Jason.fisher@csis-elca.org) to ask more questions or to get your guiding team registered.

**Registration deadline for this round of trainings is Sunday August 10.** I’m looking forward to joining you on this faith journey as we listen and follow God together.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Deacon Jason Fisher, Central/Southern IL Synod

### **Esprit de Corps Free Theater Camp**

Faith is hosting this wonderful theater camp with Esprit de Corps for children going into grades 3-8. They are learning one of Ken Bradbury's plays, "We Can Change the World," with performances on **Friday and Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Faith.**

### ***"Memories of Mama . . . Thinking of Dad"***

a Ken Bradbury play will be performed at Grace United Methodist Church, 400 W. Morgan, Jacksonville, on **Friday and Saturday, July 25 & 26, at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, July 27 at 2:00 pm.**

The cast includes Audra Nelson, Drew Snodgrass, Mike Schneider, Lynne Sheaff, Scott Stanberry, and Keith Bradbury from Jacksonville, Jim and Brenda Yale of Petersburg, Linda Schneider of Springfield, and Cathy Doyle from Rushville; Stephanie Soltermann of Jacksonville is the music director and accompanist.

Tickets are \$15 at the door; the doors open one hour before the performance, general admission seating.

*All proceeds benefit local theater and music programs  
through the Ken Bradbury Foundation.*

## **Jacksonville Area Community Food Center**

With summer here and kids being out of school, there is need for lunch foods that kids can "cook" easily at home. Some ideas: canned pasta and meat (Chef Boyardee), canned chicken or tuna, cereal, canned soups, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, Gatorade, and Jello or pudding cups. Please consider donating to the Food Center – you can put your donations in the cloth bins in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet).

## **School Supply Collection – The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches**

is collecting school supplies for in-need students for the upcoming fall 2025 school year. Collected supplies will be donated to the Jacksonville School District Foundation, for distribution through the school system. Needed items include:

Hand sanitizer • Kleenex • Clorox wipes • Paper towels • Highlighters • Markers • Single-subject spiral bound notebooks • Scissors - both adult-size and child blunt-tip scissors • Socks - all sizes of lower cut (men/women/children)

Items will be collected **through July 27, 2025**. Supplies can be left in the blue collection box in the Mission and Ministry Center by the coffee sales.

Questions? Contact coordinator Pat Glyshaw at [pat.glyshaw@gmail.com](mailto:pat.glyshaw@gmail.com).

## **Romans 12:10 Blood Drive – “Be Devoted to One Another in Love”**

The American Red Cross, Morgan County Commissioner Michael Woods, and the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches have united in spirit to bring the gift of life to our community — one drop of blood at a time.

Together, we answer the call to be devoted to one another in love, demonstrating that compassion and service are the lifeblood of a thriving community.

The event will be held **Wednesday, July 30, 2025, 12:10-5:30pm** at 331 Douglas Street in Jacksonville (former Salvation Army).

Appointments made at: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)