

# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Sandi Watts*

## 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 **You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**
- 2 **Ascended on high, almighty to save,  
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**
- 3 **Salvation to God who sits on the throne!  
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.**
- 4 **Then let us adore and give him his right,  
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!**

*\*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: Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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.*

*Hymn of Praise* – “Let There Be Praise”

*(piano)*

**Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.  
Sing to the Lord, give Him the glory;  
Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.  
Forevermore let His love fill the air,  
and let there be praise.  
Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.  
Sing to the Lord, give Him the glory;  
Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.  
Forevermore let His love fill the air,  
and let there be praise.  
Let there, O let there be praise.**

## WORD

*Reading:* Genesis 18:20-32

*Reader:* Carol Kilver

<sup>20</sup>Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, <sup>21</sup>I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”

<sup>26</sup>And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

<sup>27</sup>Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

<sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty

there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

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

*Psalm 138, spoken responsively*

Reader: Carol Kilver

<sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

<sup>2</sup>**I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,  
for you have exalted above all things  
your name and your word.**

<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me;  
my strength of soul you increased.

<sup>4</sup>**All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

<sup>5</sup>and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for great is the glory of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup>**For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,  
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve my life;  
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,  
and your right hand delivers me.

<sup>8</sup>**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

*\*Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1-13*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread,

<sup>4</sup>and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup>and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup>What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; <sup>12</sup>or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

*Song* – “Let There Be Praise”

*(piano)*

**Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.**

**Sing to the Lord, give Him the glory;**

**Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.**

**Forevermore let His love fill the air,**

**and let there be praise.**

**Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.**

**Sing to the Lord, give Him the glory;**

**Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts.**

**Forevermore let His love fill the air,**

**and let there be praise.**

**Let there, O let there be praise.**

*Sermon*

*Song of the Day* – “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” ELW 808 (piano)

- 1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:  
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
- 2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
- 3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.  
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.
- 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.  
And with all of the family you saved by your love,  
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

*\*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*

“The Lord’s Prayer,” arr. Matt Maher  
*The Faith Singers*

*—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*

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

*(organ)*

- 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father’s throne make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter’s snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.
- 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless;  
And since He bids me seek His face, believe His Word and trust His grace,  
I’ll cast on Him my ev’ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
- 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy consolation share,  
Till from Mount Pisgah’s lofty height I view my home and take my flight.  
With joy I’ll hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,  
And gladly take my station there, thy promise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

*(piano)*

1. I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong.  
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

*Refrain: Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
Daily walking close to Thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

2. Thro’ this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

*Refrain*

3. When my feeble life is o’er, time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o’er to Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. *Refrain*

*\*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* – “Lead On, O King Eternal” ELW 805

*(organ)*

- 1      **Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.  
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;  
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.**
- 2      **Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,  
but deeds of love and mercy the heav'nly kingdom comes.**
- 3      **Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears.  
Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;  
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!**

## *\*Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Song Credits**

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## Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin  
Greeter: Hallie Mayner  
Reader: Carol Kilver  
Usher: Larry Kuster  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Guest Pastor: Rev. Tom Hillertz  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Organist: Sandi Watts  
Pianist: Jean Welch  
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen  
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Hartz  
Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert  
Coffee Host: Liddy Stark



### 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

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, July 27, 9:30am: Worship      **Friends from Faith**  
Wednesday, July 30, 7:00pm: Music Rehearsal  
Saturday, August 2, 8:00am: Cooking for  
9:00am: Men's Breakfast  
Sunday, August 3, 9:30am: Outdoor Contemporary Worship  
11:00am: Indoor Traditional Worship  
Monday, August 4, 6:00pm: Worship Team Meeting  
Thursday, August 7, 6:30-8:30pm: Faith Pool Party at Nichols Park Pool

## 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.

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 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

### ***"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.*

### **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.**

### **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).

### **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).

**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)**