

**Epiphany Lutheran Church - Interim Pastor Peter Lisinski (647-395-7649)**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Holy Communion Setting Three Page 138**

**Sunday, June 28, 2026**

**Introduction to the day**

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

*The flowers today are given by Pastor Peter and Rosarii in loving memory of their son, Mark Joseph, who was born April 28, 1975 and died June 27, 2000.*

**FIRST WORD – Titus 3:5-6; 2:14:** “God saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, richly poured out upon us through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us that he might redeem us to be his own people who are zealous for good deeds.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday, July 5: Service with Holy Communion 12:00**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Dear Christian Friends, on this day, and indeed whenever we worship – in the public assembly of the church, or in the prayerful solitude of private devotion – we are one communion of saints, united by the sacrament of baptism, which incorporates us into the risen life of God's only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our crucified Saviour and Lord.

**C: By water and God's word we are reborn children of God, heirs of God's salvation, now and forever.**

Let us affirm the apostolic faith, once delivered to the saints in times past, now entrusted to future saints in the church's ministry of worship and mission to proclaim the good news of God's salvation. Sisters and brothers in Christ:

Do you renounce the cosmic forces of sin and evil that oppose God?

**We renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce their temptations of fear, hatred and hostility which distort God's word, divide the world, despoil creation, and disfigure the divine image within all people?

**We renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce self-centred pursuit of power, privilege and pleasure that lead us astray from the promises of God's providence?

**We renounce them.**

P: Baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we are marked by the

cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, grafted into the true life-giving vine of God's covenant love, and made inheritors of God's salvation together with all God's saints.

**God has named us; Christ has redeemed us; God's Holy Spirit dwells within us, today and always.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Remember and Rejoice (ELW 454)*

1 Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.

2 In life, in death, we trust  
in God's most holy name,  
forever traced by water sign,  
and sealed by Spirit flame.

3 We pledge ourselves anew  
to flee the lures of hell,  
to cling to Christ's community,  
in justice, peace to dwell.

4 God, bless us by your grace;  
remind us of your care.  
Renewing Spirit, fill us now,  
inspire our work, our prayer.

5 Remember and rejoice,  
renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
that time cannot erase.

**GREETING** (ELW p. 138)

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**

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: **Genesis 21:8-21**

*Sarah demands that Abraham send Hagar and her son, Ishmael, away. Abraham is distressed because he is Ishmael's father. Sarah wants to ensure that her son, Isaac, will be the one to inherit God's blessing. God, however, hears Hagar's cry and promises to also make of Ishmael a great nation.*

The child [Isaac] grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup> The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. <sup>13</sup> As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." <sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

<sup>20</sup> God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: **Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17**

Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and in misery.

<sup>2</sup> **Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful;  
save your servant who trusts in you.**

<sup>3</sup> Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;  
I call upon you all the day long.

<sup>4</sup> **Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

<sup>5</sup> For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
and abundant in mercy toward all who call upon you.

<sup>6</sup> **Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer,  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.**

<sup>7</sup>In the time of my trouble I will call upon you,  
for you will answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,  
nor anything like your works.**

<sup>9</sup>All the nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord,  
and glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup>**For you are great; you do wondrous things;  
and you alone are God.**

<sup>16</sup>Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;  
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me**

SECOND READING: **Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142 )



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

<sup>36</sup> and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup> "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)*

1 "Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare,  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r  
in you and you in me?

3 "Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the you you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

### **APOSTLE'S 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**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Life-giving God, your Son Jesus Christ, calls his followers to offer our lives in serving others. Strengthen your church to follow him in the way of the cross. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every bird that flies and you send rain to replenish the earth. Renew us as your partners in protecting endangered species, preserving the balance of nature, and caring for all your children. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Bring an end to all fear and bigotry that inspire conflict and violence in all forms, that all people may live peacefully in your love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Be with those who are marginalized by their physical or mental challenges, and by our neglect. Help us to reflect the compassion of Jesus, that all who suffer illness or isolation, grief or despair, may know the comfort of your presence. We pray especially for those of our own families and communities for whom life is anxious or painful in these days. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Faithful God, we give thanks for the saints of times past, and for those we have known personally, who have lived and died in faith. By your Holy Spirit, inspire us to follow their example in fulfillment of your call to new life in baptism. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your hands, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen**

**PEACE** (ELW p. 143)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

(Let us share a sign of God's peace)

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING - Hymn:** *Father, We Thank You (ELW 478)*

1 Father, we thank you that you planted  
your holy name within our hearts.  
Knowledge and faith and life immortal  
Jesus your Son to us imparts.  
Lord, you have made all for your pleasure,  
and giv'n us food for all our days,  
giving in Christ the bread eternal;  
yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.

2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mercy,  
save it from evil, guard it still;  
perfect it in your love, unite it,  
cleansed and conformed unto your will.  
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,  
was in this broken bread made one,  
so from all lands your church be gathered  
into your kingdom by your Son.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**DIALOGUE** (ELW p. 144)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

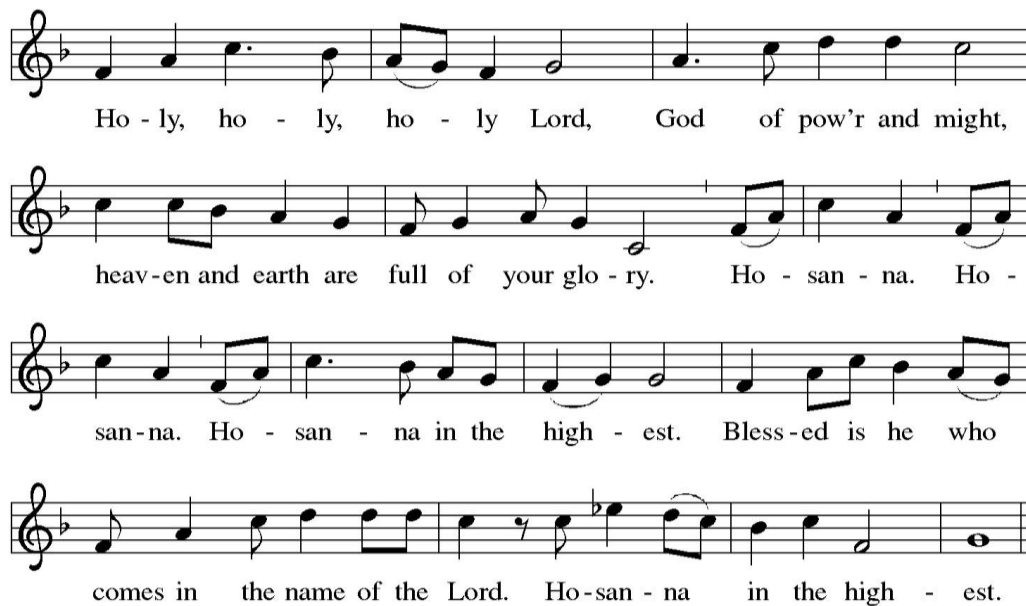
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

#### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE – (Form VI, ELW page 66)**

God our Father, you freely gave your eternally-begotten Son, to redeem your estranged children from the grip of sin and death, and to liberate your good creation from bondage to the idolatry of self-serving power and self-centred pride. In the divine humanity of Jesus Christ, Son of Mary, you entered our mortal world to confront the cosmic forces of greed, violence, and corruption that conspired to crucify him.

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.

By his resurrection on the third day, you have overcome our alienation from yourself and isolation from one another. By your Holy Spirit, intercede for your church when our faith falters and our voices fall silent before the tyranny of evil. Fulfill the promise of your infinite love and gather us into your eternal life of love, truth and peace beyond death and grave, in the holy communion of all your saints at worship in the immortal light of your grace and glory.

### **LORD'S PRAYER** (ELW p. 145)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### **RESPONSIVE LITURGY FOR VIRTUAL HOLY COMMUNION**

P: When we gather in the name of Jesus, he is here among us. (Matthew 18:20)

**C: *Jesus Christ is with us now and always, to the end of time.*** (Matthew 28:16)

P: When we are separated in body, we remain united in heart, mind and will.

**C: *We are one in the Spirit; Christ is truly with us in the sacrament of bread and wine.***

P: Sisters and brothers with us in spirit: For the remembrance of Jesus,  
take and eat the Body of Christ, given for you.

P: Brothers and sisters with us in spirit: For the remembrance of Jesus,  
take and drink the blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **COMMUNION SONG** (ELW p. 146)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### **COMMUNION** (ELW p. 146)

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you

### **TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.  
Amen

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God and Father, that by this holy sacrament you restore us to wholeness of body, mind and soul. By your Holy Spirit, bring us to fullness of eternal life in the holy communion of your infinite love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father,  $\text{✠}$  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)*

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.**

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Remember and Rejoice**

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