

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR CALVIN KONOP, PRESIDING

JESSICA CHRISTENSON, CYF DIRECTOR

KARINA ROTH, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

10:00 AM - July 5, 2026 - SETTING 12

*Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!*

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## INTRODUCTION

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

## PRELUDE

**Karina Roth**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us with compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

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

Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Blessed be God forever.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Womb of Life and Source of Being* ACS 948**

## 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

Lord of all the worlds, **guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Jess Christenson

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger.

## FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

<sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 145:8-14

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> **LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise you, O LORD,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup> that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

## **SECOND READING**

**Romans 7:15-25a**

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia*

**ACS page 33**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

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

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup> “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and

the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

**SERMON**

**Pastor Calvin Konop**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     *In This Time of Great Reflection*     **Insert**

**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**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. (*A brief silence.*)

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in

creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now: *for Denise, Linda, Lynn, Luke, Sarah, Katrina, John and Nancy.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. (*A time of silence*). We lift to You all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

**“We Walk in Love”  
by Deanna Witkowski**

**Bethlehem Choir**

## OFFERING PRAYER

**Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

## PREFACE

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Almighty God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**ACS page 36**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast! All are welcome!

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)*

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Lamb of God*

ACS page 40

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW 726

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through his holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

## 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

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

ELW 697

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**Karina Roth**





## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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www.sharingchrist.org | blc@boreal.org



On-line giving is encouraged  
using this QR Code

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

- Sun July 21 8:40 AM Choir practice  
10:00 AM **Worship Service**
- Tues July 7 8:30 AM Staff Meeting
- Wed July 8 12:30 PM Text Study
- Thur July 9 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
9:00 AM Quilting  
9:30 AM Esther Circle
- Sun July 12 10:00 AM Worship Service

### **We pray for healing for these members & friends:**

Denise Murray, Linda Zenk, Stacey Johnson, Lynn Schulte, Clayton & Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen.

### **Fisherman's Picnic Worship**

Bethlehem has been asked to lead worship at Fisherman's Picnic on Sunday, August 2nd. We will host worship at Harbor Park in place of worship at Bethlehem. Coffee An' will also be served at Harbor Park. More information to come.

### **Sunday Morning Volunteers**

We are always looking for more help with ushers, communion servers, and and lectors on Sunday mornings. If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer positions, ask Pastor Calvin. Getting more info does not sign you up to help. :)



**“Super Hero Training” Vacation Bible School** will be **July 13-17, 2026**. 9 am to noon for K-5th grade students. \$25/ student for registrations . Scholarships available.

We are still look for **volunteers** to help during VBS, both adults and students (especially adults). Reach out to Jess for more info.

**Mighty Moose**, our non-trademarked, unlicensed superhero, complete with mask and cape, will be making guest appearances around town. Like our Facebook Page (Bethlehem Lutheran Church) to see where Mighty Moose winds up next!




# IN THIS TIME OF GREAT REFLECTION

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

Restoration  
Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835



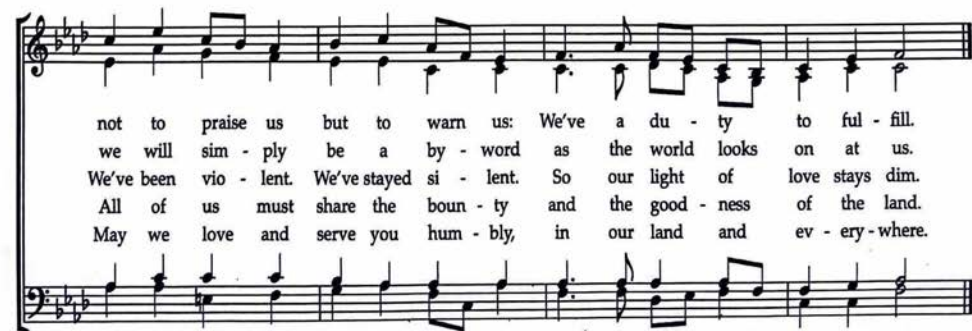
1. In this time of great re - flec - tion on two hun - dred fif - ty years,  
2. Here is what holds us to - geth - er: Mer - cy, love, com - mu - ni - ty.  
3. We re - call our na - tion's sto - ry. Keep us hon - est, God a - bove!  
4. Will we work for ra - cial jus - tice? Will we turn from fear and hate?  
5. In this time, O God, re - store us to the land we're called to be—



We re - mem - ber, as a na - tion, times we've pros - pered, times of tears.  
We're to seek to care for neigh - bors in a just so - ci - e - ty.  
In our quest for wealth and glo - ry, we have in - jured ones you love.  
What is now the pub - lic wit - ness that you call us to cre - ate?  
where all peo - ple here a - mong us know your blest com - mu - ni - ty.



"We shall be," a pre - acher told us, "as a ci - ty on a hill"—  
If we fail to help the nee - dy and to build a land that's just,  
Through en - slave - ment, through dis - place - ment, we have cho - sen ways of sin.  
As we ce - le - brate our coun - try, help us, Lord, to un - der - stand:  
May we seek to be that ci - ty, not with pride but as a prayer.



not to praise us but to warn us: We've a du - ty to ful - fill.  
we will sim - ply be a by - word as the world looks on at us.  
We've been vio - lent. We've stayed si - lent. So our light of love stays dim.  
All of us must share the boun - ty and the good - ness of the land.  
May we love and serve you hum - bly, in our land and ev - ery - where.



## PACK YOUR BACKPACK!

CHOOSE WHAT ITEMS YOU SHOULD BRING

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

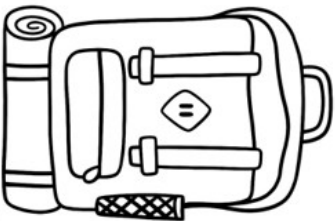
- 1) EDJUG \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) TUSRT \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) OLFLWO \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) TIFRA \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) EUSJS \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: GUIDE, TRUST, FORTAL, FRITAL, FEMERS

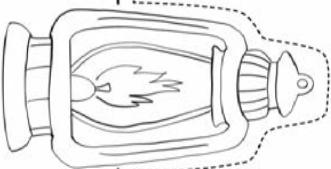


## HELP THE CRITTERS FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE CAMPSITE

LIGHT THE FIRE & CONNECT THE DOTS!



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SHINE  
YOUR  
LIGHT.  
SHARE GOD'S  
LOVE!