

*“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

*~Matthew 11:28, 30*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 5, 2026**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!  
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an \* and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Guest information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

*As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING**

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

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (ELW 611)**



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

**\*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.**

# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

*Refrain*



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

(continued)

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and  
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -  
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.  
 A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's  
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67**

*The marriage of Isaac and Rebekah helped to fulfill God's promise that Abraham and Sarah would become the ancestors of many nations.*

A reading from Genesis.

[Laban received a visitor who said,] <sup>34</sup>“I am Abraham’s servant. <sup>35</sup> The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. <sup>36</sup> And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and he has given him all that he has. <sup>37</sup> My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I live, <sup>38</sup> but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

<sup>42</sup>“I came today to the spring and said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! <sup>43</sup> I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ <sup>44</sup> and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

<sup>45</sup>“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ <sup>46</sup> She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. <sup>47</sup> Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. <sup>48</sup> Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. <sup>49</sup> Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” <sup>59</sup> So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. <sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.”

<sup>61</sup> Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man, and the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. <sup>63</sup> Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field, and, looking up, he saw camels coming. <sup>64</sup> And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel <sup>65</sup> and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. <sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. <sup>67</sup> Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 45:10-17

*We will read the Psalm responsively. The leader will read the light verses, the congregation is invited to read the darker printed verses together.*

<sup>10</sup> “Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely;  
forget your people and your father’s house.

<sup>11</sup> **The king will desire your beauty;  
he is your master, so bow before him.**

<sup>12</sup> The city of Tyre brings tribute;  
the wealthiest of the people seek your favor.”

<sup>13</sup> **All glorious is the princess as she enters;  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.**

<sup>14</sup> In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king;  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

<sup>15</sup> **With joy and gladness they are brought,  
and enter into the palace of the king.**

<sup>16</sup> “In place of ancestors, O king, you shall have sons;  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

<sup>17</sup> **I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another;  
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.”**

## SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

*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.*

A reading from Romans.

<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!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*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.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

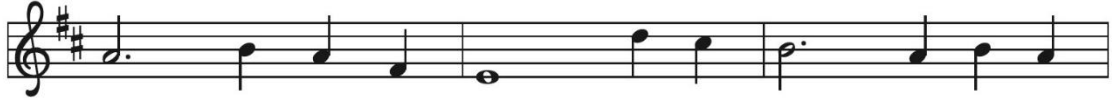
## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler* (ACS 1017)**

*(Blue prayer cards are collected)*



1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to  
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not  
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my  
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -  
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -  
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -  
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."  
fore you; do not run from me in fright."  
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."  
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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 for reflection*

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations and 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.**

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need especially Geneva, Cherry, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Reed those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. 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.**

Renewing God, you hear our every prayer, spoken and unspoken, those we can verbalize and those we do not yet have the words to name. We lift the prayers of the people gathered in this space, (*blue prayer cards are offered*), and those we quietly entrust to you from the silence of our hearts. We commend our prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

*You are invited to share a gift to support the ministries of this congregation during the following song. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, and communion records are also collected in the offering plates.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679) \*Rise on verse 3



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

## \*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.**

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**

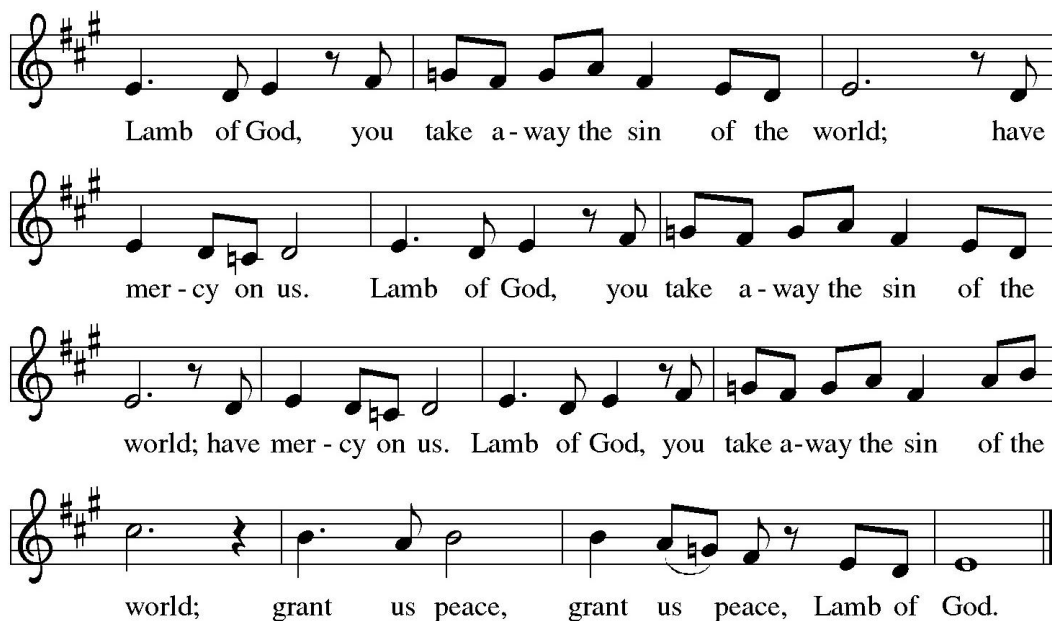
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!  
Taste and see that the Lord is good. This meal is for you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

## COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



The image shows the musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* (ELW 608)



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## COMMUNION HYMN *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW 742)



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rowsshare?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

**Amen**

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

# SENDING

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

## \*BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG *We've Come This Far by Faith* (ELW 633)

*Refrain – All*



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;



trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.



Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by



faith. We've come this far by faith.

*Leader*



1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has  
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your



done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,  
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

*Refrain*



praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!  
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

## \*DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

**The flowers on the altar were supplied by John and Karen Kramer in memory of Helen and Wilbur Kramer, Laverna Schlag, Clifford Hovland and Joy Schlag.**

**Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Emma N**

**Acolyte: Volunteer**

**Offering: Volunteers**

**Attendance last week: 55 + livestream**

### **Notes for the day's texts:**

Today's gospel reading contains iconic words from Jesus: "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). Jesus offers a yoke to tired listeners and tells them that a yoke will give them rest. The yoke as a means to rest was a strange idea for the disciples, and it ought to sound strange to us as well. The early hearers of this biblical passage would have known a yoke to be a means of engaging the energy of oxen as heavy lifters in the enterprise of farming. Yokes are still employed in our world and they are still a burden and a way of harnessing animals' hard work. The first ancient readers or hearers of Matthew also viewed a yoke as a symbol of obedience to God's law and wisdom. Generally, our instinct is to resist yokes and laws, or at least not immediately connect them with the idea of freedom. Through the image of the yoke, however, Jesus invites us to think of God's law and wisdom as a means to surrender, give way, and accept something graceful and positive—rest, ease, lightness. Jesus reframes the idea of a yoke by telling us that a yoke will help us grow as disciples. The gospel links humility to freedom.

### **Today's Music**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say.* Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, Music: English folk tune. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

*Come to Me, O Weary Traveler.* Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951. GIA Publications, Inc. / Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

*For the Fruit of All Creation.* Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.* Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909, Music: Will L. Thompson. Public Domain.

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus.* Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918. Public Domain.

*We've Come This Far by Faith.* Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933-2003, Music: Albert A. Goodson. Manna Music, Inc.

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### **Next Week's Readings**

*Genesis 25:19-34 Esau sells his birthright to Jacob*

*Psalms 119:105-112 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light upon my path. (Ps. 119:105)*

*Romans 8:1-11 Live according to the Spirit*

*Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 The parable of the sower and the seed*