6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **JULY 5, 2026**

GREETING
P: Gathered in Christ.
C: We serve with grace.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* ..... #742

PRAYER OF THE DAY
C: 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.

FIRST READING: ZECHARIAH 9:9-12
9 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. 10 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. 11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set
your prisoners free from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners
of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-14

[8] The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
[9] **Lord, you are good to all,**
and your compassion is over all your works.
[10] All your works shall praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
[11] **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom**
and speak of your power,
[12] that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
[13] **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-out all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**
[14] The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 7:15-25

[15] I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. [16] Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. [17] But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. [18] 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. [19] For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. [20] Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. [21] So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. [22] For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, [23] 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. [24] Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? [25a] Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

KIDS TALK

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: *Alleluia.*

C: Blessed are you, Lord of heav'n and earth; you have revealed these things to infants. *Alleluia.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 11;16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] [16] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like

children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, [17] 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' [18] "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; [19] 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." [20] Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. [21] "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. [22] But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. [23] And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. "For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. [24] But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you." [25] 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; [26] yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. [27] 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. [28] "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. [29] 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. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"* ..... #608

APOSTLES' CREED
C: 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
P: 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.

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,
C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,
C: hear our prayer.

P: 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. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: 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*). God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,
C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest (*especially*), we thank you for the gifts of life together. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

PEACE
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"
C: Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the holy one. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich; because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.

OFFERING PRAYER
P: 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.
C: Amen.

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 in remembrance of me."

Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: 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
P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION HYMN *“Lamb of God”*..... Setting 4 #154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this 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.
C: Amen.

BLESSING
P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG “*Just Closer Walk with Thee”* ..... #697

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE
C: My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It’s a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.

DISMISSAL
P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God.