



June 21, 2026

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.
~On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

♪ When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. ~On...

♪ His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. ~On...

♪ When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! ~On....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 575—Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

Psalms 25:7, 18

Holy and gracious God,

I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver according to Your mercy and grant peace to my heart so that I may serve You with all my mind, body, and soul.

A Time of Silence

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Amazing Grace”

♪ Amazing grace—how sweet the sound— That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

♪ The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

♪ Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

♪ Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

♪ When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744—Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5):
A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond; Text: Public domain

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 20:7–13

⁷O Lord, you have deceived me, and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!”

For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,”

there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side!

“Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall.

“Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.”

¹¹But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹²O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 6:12–23

¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have

been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

- ♪ Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!
- ♪ Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me! All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.
- ♪ Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer? Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall;
Lo, on Thee I cast my care; Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive
Hoping against hope, I stand, Dying, and behold, I live!
- ♪ Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.
- ♪ Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the Fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee; Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 345-Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Public domain

The Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them,...

²¹Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for

truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

²⁶“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. ³²So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

♪ Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

E’en though it be a cross that raiseth me, Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

♪ Though like the wanderer, The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, My rest a stone, Yet in my dreams I’d be
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

♪ There let my way appear Steps unto heav’n;
All that Thou sendest me In mercy giv’n; Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

♪ Then with my waking thoughts Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I’ll raise, So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

♪ Or if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly, Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.

The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 533 -Text: Sarah F. Adams 1805-48; Public domain.

Proclamation of the Word

“Whose Side Are You On?”

Romans 6:12–23

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Admonition to Communicants

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

“Just As I Am without One Plea”

♪ Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am, though tossed about With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

♪ Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 570 -Text: Charlotte Elliott 1789-1871; Public domain.

“Lift High the Cross”

~ Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. ~ Lift high the cross...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. ~ Lift high the cross...

- ♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~ Lift high the cross...
- ♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~ Lift high the cross...
- ♪ Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~ Lift high the cross...
- ♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~ Lift high the cross...

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn: 837 – Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.;
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Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:24–26

Recessional Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e'er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 725–Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903;
tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958; Text: Public domain*

Postlude