

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary 17
Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
July 26, 2026
10:00am



Today we welcome Reverend Nancy Jo Kemper as our preacher.

Thanks, Nancy Jo, for your service among us.

Welcome

And thank you for worshipping with us today.

If you are a visitor, we are so glad you came! We hope that you will fill out a yellow or green card in your pew and either drop it in the offering plate or leave it at the *Welcome Place* as you leave today. We hope to see you again soon!

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service and will learn to participate at a young age if present. If your child needs to leave for all or part of the service, a fully staffed nursery is available at both services for infants through age five. The nursery is located in the lower level of the church. Please ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Children Worship and Wonder is a ministry designed to help our youngest members experience worship in a way that is meaningful to them. Using a storytelling format, children hear the stories of God, wonder together about their meaning, and respond through hands-on activities. The worship space is set up to encourage reverence, quiet listening, and creativity, helping children grow in faith as they learn to worship God in their own way. Children are dismissed for CWW after the Gathering Hymn at the 11:00 service. Note: CWW runs September through May and will resume in the fall.

If you have a **prayer request** or would like a **pastoral visit**, please fill out a green card in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

Adults and children who receive **Holy Communion** in their home church are invited to receive the sacrament with us. All others are invited to the table to receive a blessing. We use **grape wine** and **wheat bread**. Gluten free wafers are available (please let Pastor know when you come forward if you need one). The fullness of the sacrament is available in either form: if for reasons of health or conscience, you can only receive the bread or the wine, please let Pastor know. After each morning service we invite you to join us for **refreshments and conversation** in the gathering area adjacent to the worship area.

In order to **prepare for worship**, please: keep **silence** for 10 minutes prior to worship for prayer and meditation; **silence** all electronic devices; **refrain from talking** during the **prelude**, which is the beginning of our worship service.

Our Mission

As followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace, reflect and proclaim God's unconditional love.

Our Vision

To provide an active and visible Lutheran presence in the Lexington area by:

- maintaining our doctrinal, spiritual, and liturgical heritage;
- creating a community of disciples committed to growing in their spiritual lives;
- engaging in a vigorous lifestyle of evangelism;
- working to preserve the dignity of all God's people.

Prelude

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

setting by Gary Lanier

Joe McGrannahan, clarinet

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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,

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. **Amen.**



Greeting

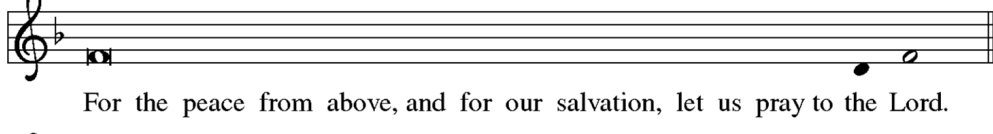
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.**

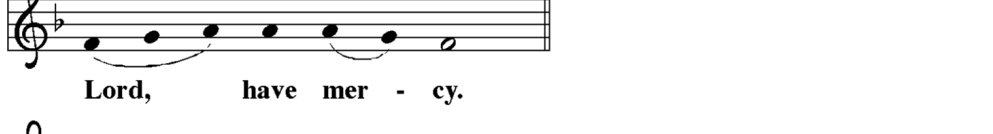
Kyrie



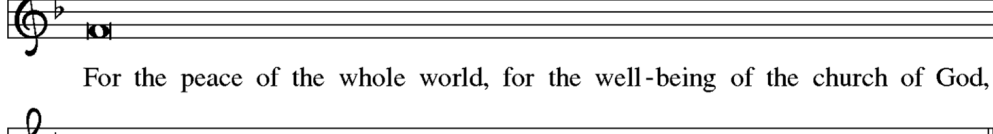
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



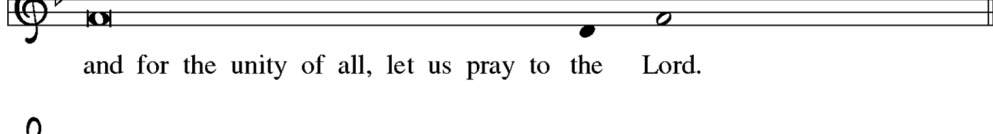
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



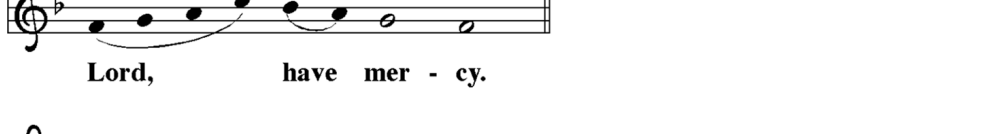
Lord, have mer - cy.



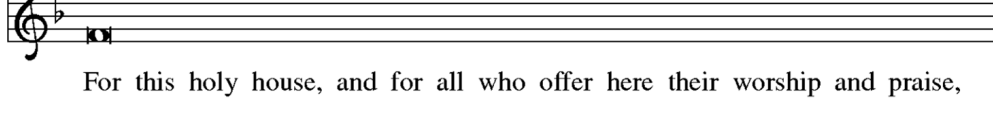
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



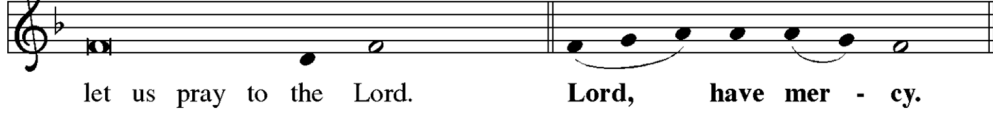
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



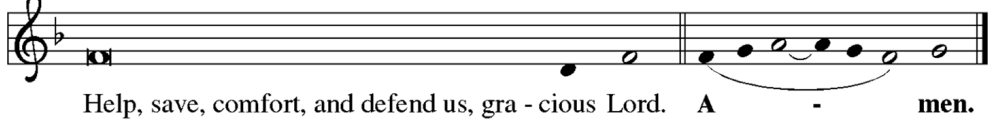
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



Tu - ya es la glo - ria, la hon - ra tam - bién;

1 Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;

2 Yours, Lord, the do - min - ions, and pow - er as well;

3 To you I sur - ren - der my be - ing, my life;

4 Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.



tu - ya pa - ra siem - pre. A - mén, a - mén.

yours, Lord, now and al - ways.

yours, Lord, now and al - ways. A - men, a - men.

all, Lord, I sur - ren - der.

Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

We sit.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon's prayer for wisdom

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

The word of the Lord or Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is o - pened, it gives
light and un - der - stand - ing.

129 Your de- l crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with l all my heart.
130 **When your word is opened l it gives light;
it gives understanding l to the simple.**
131 I open my l mouth and pant
because I long for l your commandments.
132 **Turn to me and be gra- l cious to me,
as you always do to those who l love your name. R**
133 Order my footsteps l in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion l over me.
134 **Rescue me from those l who oppress me,
and I will keep l your commandments.**
135 Let your face shine up- l on your servant
and teach l me your statutes.
136 **My eyes shed l streams of tears,
because people do not l keep your teaching. R**

Second Reading Romans 8:26-39 *Nothing can separate us from God's love*

26 The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who

is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The word of the Lord or Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand with the presiding minister to greet the reading of the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker
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*(cantor) Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven.
(repeat alleluia)*

Gospel Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *Parables of the reign of heaven*

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

31 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” 33 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” 34 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 35 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 36 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 37 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 38 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 39 So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

We sing the acclamation; then we sit.

Sermon Reverend Nancy Jo Kemper

We stand to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day ACS 952 *The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field*

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Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: DUNLAP’S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816
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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 God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share the peace of Christ with one another and then sit.

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory *Amazing Grace in Blue* setting by Tim Curd
Joe McGrannahan, saxophone

Offering Hymn ELW 679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Offering Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Blessing

Sending Hymn ELW 544 *Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *When the Saints Go Marching In* setting by Tim Curd
Joe McGrannahan, clarinet

THIS WEEK ^{at} GLANCE

Sunday, July 26

10:00am In-Person/Livestream Worship
11:00am Booksale Begins

Monday, July 27

6:15pm AA
7:00 pm Sophia Group

Wednesday, July 29

6:00pm AA Faith House

Thursday, July 30

7:15am Men's Group

Serving Today

Assisting Minister	Barb Nikolajczyk
Organist/Pianist	Kathy Egner
Cantor	Emily Hayes
Sacristan	Phyllis Hasbrouck
Ushers	Gordon Grotrian & Dave Nikolajczyk
Greeter	Diana Shappley
Counters	Elaine Billington / Penni Black
Livestream Operator	Debbie Rosenberg

Ministers
Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Parish Administrator
Director of Music
Youth Assistant
Learning Center Director
Facilities Manager

All Members of Faith
The Reverend Dana Lockhart
The Reverend Ron Luckey
Victoria Rusk
Kathy Egner
Paige Barricklow
Courtney Herald
Parker Taul

Scan for Online Giving



Worship Servants for Next Sunday (August 2)

10:00

Assisting Minister	Richard Michel
Organist/Pianist	Kathy Egner
Cantor	Teri Applegate
Sacristan	Phyllis Hasbrouck
Ushers	Carolyn & William Holmes
Greeter	Carolyn Carden
Counters	
Livestream Operator	David Templar

Commemorations

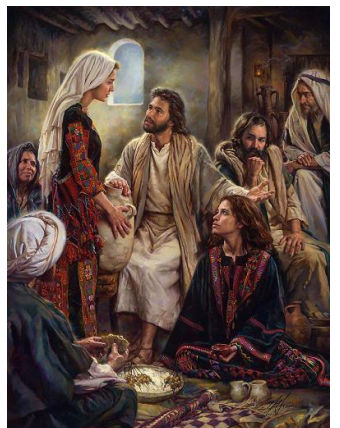
Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians | Tuesday, July 28



These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany | Wednesday, July 29

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.



- Books can be dropped off during the weeks leading up to the sale and placed in the Outreach cabinet in the hall outside the office.
- Any overflow can be placed in the Library/CWW room.
- The books will be set out on tables on Saturday the 25th.
- They should be removed from the Narthex by Tuesday morning, Aug. 11.

