



Sunday, June 7, 2026

10:00 a.m.



It's Hard ...

Pastor Erik Allen



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Paul Manz

Announcements

GATHERING

Song

We Declare the Kingdom of God is Here

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 33)*

P: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; praise belongs to the people of God.

C: **We come with glad hearts to sing a new song, trusting the One whose word is true.**

P: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by God's breath all creation lives.

C: **The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord; God's mercy surrounds all that has been made.**

P: The plans of nations may rise and fall, but the counsel of the Lord stands forever.

C: **Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord. Let us Gather to worship the One who creates, sustains, and saves! Amen.**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **And also with you!**

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

Lord, I Need You

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: 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.**

P: 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 of the Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

please be seated

WORD

Lesson

Hosea 5:15-6:6

Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"It's Hard ..."

Pastor Erik

Hymn

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

ELW 617

The 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.**

please be seated

Offering

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



Each 1st Sunday we collect a special offering for World Hunger through ELCA. If you would like to donate, you may do so online or baskets are available near the Usher's Table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Offering Response

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
(vs 1)

ELW 836

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.**

Prayers of the Church (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Anita, Sue, Bob, Amy, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Janell, Anna, Richard, Kathy, Jessie, Adelyn, Kipp, Dale, Melanie, Charles, Chuck, Mary, Carol, Bob

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our

sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

Invitation to Communion

P: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

SENDING

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Song

Mourning Into Dance

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Fugue in C Major"

Dietrich Buxtehude

Silverbox Deliveries June 19-20

We've started collecting our usual items for our next Silverbox Delivery Ministry. Please bring cereal, spaghetti sauce and peanut butter as your budget allows. You should have received a Flocknote to sign up to pack and deliver food.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: The Spirit's Words in Scripture

God gives us the Word to bring us to faith, sustain us in faith, and lead us into the promise of resurrection life. Scripture is not given merely to inform us, but to bring us to encounter the living Christ. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit calls us away from despair, self-reliance, fear, and false promises, and draws us again into the mercy of God. We face many temptations that pull us away from God. We may long for signs and wonders more than the ordinary means of grace. We may trust in wealth, success, pride, or our own strength. Yet God continues to speak through the workings of the Spirit, bearing witness to Christ, who redeems us and gives us the riches of grace that do not fade.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31 Seeing Isn't Believing

We walk by faith, not by sight. There is a deep temptation to think that if we could only see Jesus face-to-face, or witness miracles, signs, and wonders, then faith would be easier. Yet, Jesus tells a different story. Faith is not finally born in what our eyes can verify, but through the Word God gives us to hear. "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." These words are sobering, especially because Christ himself has risen from the dead. Still, God is gracious. Through Scripture, the Spirit continues to pour the living Word into our ears, opening our hearts to mercy and our eyes to the neighbor in our midst. Lord, keep me steadfast in your Word. Open my ears to your promise and my eyes to the neighbors you place before me. Amen.

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:1-8 A Blessed Way

The psalmist says, "Happy are those whose way is blameless." At first, those words may feel far from us. We know the ways selfishness, fear, resentment, and pride distort even our best intentions. How can we, who are so often divided within ourselves, walk in a way that is blameless? The answer is not found in striving for perfection or in achieving some spiritual goal. It is found in the mercy of God. In Christ, God declares us forgiven, beloved, and made new. God's Word shows us our sin, but it also shows us our Savior and teaches us what love looks like in real life: truthfulness, mercy, justice, faithfulness, and care for the neighbor. Lord, thank you for making me holy and beloved in Christ. Teach me to walk in your ways with humility, joy, and trust. Amen.

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:16-21 Love Proceeding from God

God calls us to love. Love is the fruit of the Spirit, the command of Christ, and the fulfillment of the law. Yet, if we are honest, love is not something we can simply produce by trying harder. Left to ourselves, we often turn inward, protect ourselves, keep score, and withhold mercy. But the gospel does not begin with our love for God or neighbor. It begins with God's love for us. "We love because God first loved us." This love is not something vague or distant. It is revealed in the cross, where Jesus gives himself for the life of the world, and it is formed in us by the power of the Spirit! Loving God, fill me with the love you have first shown in Christ. Teach me to love not only in words, but in patience, mercy, and action. Amen.

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 9:23-24 Boasting in the Lord

People are often tempted to boast. We boast in wisdom, strength, wealth, success, influence, or the image we present to others. We may not always call it boasting, but we know the impulse to measure ourselves against others and build our security on what we possess, accomplish, or control. Jeremiah's words remind us that God redirects our boasting. If we boast, we are to boast in this: that we know the Lord, who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. Everything we have is a gift. In Jesus, we receive the fullness of God's mercy and the promise that our lives rest not in what we can secure for ourselves, but in what God has done for us. Lord, turn my heart from pride and self-reliance. Teach me to give thanks, to seek justice and mercy, and to boast only in your grace. Amen.

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13-21 Eternal Treasures

What is the greatest treasure we can have? The world often teaches us to answer in terms of wealth, security, possessions, and comfort. Our anxious hearts can easily believe that if we only had a little more, we would finally be content. Yet, "enough" has a way of moving just beyond our reach. Jesus' parable of the rich fool is not a condemnation of prudent care or responsible planning. It is a warning against the illusion that possessions can give life. God gives us a better treasure. In Christ, we receive mercy, forgiveness, belonging, purpose, and hope in what is to come. These gifts free us to hold earthly goods with open hands and to practice generosity for the life of the world. Lord, free me from the fear that I do not have enough. Teach me to treasure Christ, practice generosity, and trust the riches of your grace. Amen.

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Godly Contentment

Contentment may sound simple, but it reaches deeply into the life of faith. As the commandments remind us, coveting is not a harmless private thought. It reveals where our trust has begun to shift and how easily our hearts can be drawn away from God and our neighbor. Here, Paul reminds Timothy that “there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment.” We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. Wealth is uncertain. God is not. The life of faith is not passive, but rather filled with the pursuit of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. In walking with Jesus, we find a contentment that opens our hands in gratitude and generosity. Generous God, teach me contentment rooted in your faithfulness. Free me from coveting, and form me in generosity, gentleness, and trust. Amen.

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 34 Praising Through Affliction

The psalmist begins with praise: “I will bless the Lord at all times; God’s praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Yet this praise does not come from a life untouched by pain. Psalm 34 knows fear, trouble, and affliction, and praising God is not a denial of this. Instead, it reminds us that trust often emerges amid real suffering. When we suffer, we may be tempted to believe that God has forgotten us or stopped loving us. But Psalm 34 gives us another perspective: “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.” God is not cruel, and suffering is not proof that God is testing us through harm. In Christ, God has entered suffering fully and overcomes it through Jesus’ resurrection. For this hope, we praise the Lord even through our tears. Lord, be near to me in affliction. Teach me to praise you honestly, trust you deeply, and hope in the resurrection you promise in Christ. Amen.