



Sunday, July 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.



“The Kingdom of Heaven”

Pastor Erik Allen



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP



Prelude

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Paul Manz

Announcements

GATHERING

Song

My Heart Sings Praises

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 105)*

P: Give thanks to the Lord; call upon God’s name.

C: Make known God’s works among all people.

P: Sing to the Lord; tell of all God’s wonderful deeds.

C: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

P: Come, let us worship the God who has been faithful from generation to generation.

C: We remember God’s promises and rejoice in God’s presence. Amen.

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

C: And also with you!

(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)

Song

Refiner’s Fire

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: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

please be seated

WORD

Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Pastor Erik

Sermon

"The Kingdom of Heaven"

Pastor Erik

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

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.



Offering Hymn

“Now the Feast and Celebration”

ELW 167

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: Cheryl, Anita, Amy, Sue, Marion, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Marylin, Leon, Karla, Joe, Ryan, Brian, Jim, Ryan, Wilbur, Laura,
Dennis, Janell, Ebby, Richard, Roger, Dale, Mary, Carol

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

Since I Opened Up the Door

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Fantasia"

Johann Pachelbel

1st Sunday Fellowship

Our last 1st Sunday summer gathering is next week. We finish with a bang! Join us for Sundae Sunday following worship on August 2, hopefully on our Front Porch. If weather doesn't cooperate, we'll gather in Fellowship Hall. Invite your neighbors to worship so they can see what a friendly, caring group we are here!

Lands'End KOG Swag

We think it's time to show our KOG pride! We are working with Lands'End where you can choose from a variety of clothing which will include our KOG logo. Keep an eye out in Flocknote for a step by step process to order online (we had a glitch this week when Donna and I tried to order ... stay tuned). Donna is working with the company for them to provide some sample items. I know first hand, it's good quality clothing (I'm still wearing mine from at least 10 years ago!). We also have a discount code so you'll want to make sure to use that. More to come...

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

THEME OF THE WEEK: Living Faith

The Lord promises to care for all that belongs to God. God provides shepherds, guards against false teachers, makes us beloved children in Holy Baptism, forgives our sins, comforts us in the midst of sorrow, promises an eternal victory over evil, and continues to serve us through the means of grace. All this comes to us through Christ's holy and precious blood. Through all of this we are made partakers of eternal life.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:15-23 Bearing Proper Fruit

Jesus invites us to pay attention to the fruit that grows from a life of faith. The words we speak, the ways we treat our neighbors, and the hope we share all reveal something about what shapes us. We need not be drawn in by appearances, charisma, numbers, or popularity, for these can be deceptive. Instead, we return again and again to God's Word, which centers us in Christ's mercy and teaches us to recognize what brings life. As we grow in faith, we learn to seek leaders and communities whose witness bears the marks of compassion, humility, justice, and love. *Lord, help me to remain rooted in Your Word and to bear faithful fruit in the world. Amen.*

MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Ps 119, Returning to the Lord's Ways and Paths

God's teaching is a treasure, more precious than gold and more beautiful than jewels. David, and all the saints who have prayed this psalm after him, cherish the gift of the law that guides our lives and the gospel that comforts our hearts. When temptations and harmful desires turn us away, the Lord's help is not found merely in our resolve to do better, but in God's steadfast grace. Trusting that God is gracious to us for Christ's sake, we are turned once again toward the testimonies that lead us into life. Our lips praise the Lord, whose righteousness is mercy and whose paths are peace. *Grant me repentance and faith, O Lord, to return me to Your ways and paths of righteousness. Amen.*

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:12-17 Children of the Heavenly Father

The Lord teaches us that we are God's children. We have been rescued from slavery to sin and death and brought into the household of God. We belong to Christ, having been claimed in our Baptism into His death and resurrection. By this we are made God's children. Clothed in Christ, our Lord Jesus, we are also heirs with the Son. We share in the promises that come from our Heavenly Father. Just as in this life we may receive an earthly inheritance from our families, so now we receive an eternal inheritance from our Heavenly Father. We inherit the kingdom of God because we are children of the Heavenly Father. *Lord, thank You for adopting me as Your child through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 15:19-21 A Bronze Wall Against the Wicked

In Jeremiah 15:16 the prophet tells us that he ate the Lord's Word, and it was the joy and rejoicing of his heart. The Lord calls Jeremiah to speak a hard word to Jerusalem, even when that witness is unwelcome. Jeremiah's strength does not come from winning an argument or standing alone, but from the God whose Word is faithful. The same is true today. God's Word continues to call us back to life, and no power can finally silence its promise. The Holy Spirit will continue to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify Christ's people until the great last day. *O Lord, grant that we would hear, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your Word, the joy and rejoicing of our hearts. Amen.*

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 7:22-29 Same House, Different Foundations

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with the parable of two houses. One was built on a rock-solid foundation. The other was built on sand. Both looked sound for a time, but when the storms came, the rain fell, and the wind blew, one house stood, and the other fell. Jesus invites us not merely to hear His words, but to let them take root in our lives. Grounded in Christ, we are strengthened to meet temptation, persevere through trouble, and trust God's grace in every season. At last, we stand on the steadfast promise of the forgiveness of sins through the cross of Christ. *O Lord, stand us on the bedrock of the Gospel and the confidence of Your Word. Amen.*

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: Acts 20:17-38 Courage to Declare the Whole Council of God

Before going to Jerusalem, Paul calls the Ephesian elders together and shares one last word with them. He speaks honestly about his ministry, his tears, and his trust in God's care for the church. Paul's witness reminds us that the Gospel is not a possession to defend, but good news to share: God's grace is for all people and Christ's love frees us for service. Those called to minister among us are invited to speak this whole Gospel with courage and tenderness, especially when fear or division threatens the community. Pray for all those who shepherd God's people in their various forms of service. *O Lord, grant that those who minister among us teach and live Your Word with humility, courage, and love. Amen.*

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 126 Weeping Turned to Joy

In this life we will have trouble. We will have sorrow, pain, sickness, and even death. These are the things that constantly plague us and follow after us. But in the midst of this weeping and trouble we have the joy of the Lord. We are promised that these things will not last, that they are temporary. As we endure them, joy runs alongside us to sustain us until we at last attain the crown of righteousness. Then, we who have gone out weeping will come into the eternal home of the Lord with shouts of joy. *Lord, keep me in Your joy in the midst of sorrow, looking to the eternal joy of Your kingdom. Amen.*

Save the Date
Sunday, September 13
Lunch and Service Projects Following Worship

