



Sunday, June 21, 2026

10:00 a.m.



“It’s Scandalous”

Pastor Erik Allen



# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**Prelude**

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

John Behnke

**Announcements**

## GATHERING

**Song**

Speak O Lord

**Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 69)*

P: We come before God with honest hearts, bringing our weariness, our longing, and our hope.

C: **We seek the Lord, trusting in God’s steadfast love.**

P: When we feel overwhelmed, misunderstood, or far from peace, God hears the cries of God’s people.

C: **The Lord draws near with mercy and does not turn away.**

P: In the acceptable time, O God, answer us.

C: **With your abundant mercy, rescue us and hold us fast.**

P: Let us worship the God whose love is steadfast, whose compassion is sure, and whose presence meets us here.

C: **We come to worship the Lord.**

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

C: **And also with you!**

*(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)*

**Song**

Let the Peace of God Reign

**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. Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

*please be seated*

### **WORD**

**Lesson** Romans 6:1-11

**Gospel** Matthew 10:24-39

### **Gospel Response**

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message** Pastor Erik

**Sermon** "It's Scandalous" Pastor Erik

**Hymn** Children of the Heavenly Father ELW 781

### **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.



## Special Music

“Somewhere In the World”

*David Moscrip*

## 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, Amy, Sue, Bob, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Leota, Dennis, Charles Janell, Anna, Pug,  
Ebby, Richard, 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

Let There Be Praise

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

"Fuga Cromatica"

Georg Michael Telemann

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## Congregational Meeting

Our next Congregational meeting will be held shortly after worship on June 28. The purpose of the meeting will be to affirm the budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, hear a report on the June 6 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly and other items that may need to come before the congregation.

Join us today after worship in the Cross & Crown for a Budget Roundtable where you can ask questions. Can't join us today, there is another meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 pm in Cross & Crown. You can park in the back lot and enter at door #6 for easy access.

## Kitchen "Deep Clean" Party

Who doesn't like a clean kitchen?! We are looking for 5 folks to help give the kitchen a good solid clean tomorrow, June 22 from 9:00-12:00. Interested or questions? See Cheryl Hazelrigg.

## Silverbox Deliveries July 17 & 18

Please take a moment to see if you are able to help Friday, July 17 or Saturday, July 18 as we prepare and deliver boxes of food for folks in need of assistance on the near northeast side of Indianapolis. We are still collecting Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce and Cereal each month so if you have the means to help out, keep an eye out for sales! Questions? See Hans Loyda or the Snokes

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

**THEME OF THE WEEK:** This week our texts remind us that it is the Holy Spirit who works true repentance in our hearts through the Word of God. First, the Spirit brings us to contrition, or sorrow over our sin, through the Law. Then, the Spirit creates in us faith, born of the Gospel, which trusts that our sin is forgiven for Jesus' sake. These are the two parts of repentance, that sinners might have comfort and confidence before God, a comfort and confidence that could never be the work of human effort, but the divine and glorious work of our gracious and merciful God.

### **SUNDAY: Luke 15:1-10 "Remember Me"**

This surprising shepherd goes and finds "the one." He recklessly leaves the 99 to go and search for that wandering sheep who could not stay in the fold. The sheep could not keep itself on the path or in line with the rest. The shepherd searches over hill and valley, and when he finds the lost sheep, he throws a party. What a ridiculous thing to do! His friends surely would question this shepherd's sense. Why throw a party for a sheep that could not keep itself safe? That is how it works with Jesus. He does the unexpected thing of the Gospel, setting aside what seems normal and rational. A sensible shepherd might leave the one sheep in the wilderness, for that is what the sheep deserves. Jesus does not. He finds us and rescues us and rejoices with the angels over our forgiveness. Good Shepherd, never stop seeking Your lost sheep. Amen.

### **MONDAY: Psalm 119:17 -24 Being in Conversation with the Word of God**

Consider the beautiful contrast in verses 23 and 24. The princes, those who rule in this world, sit together to plot and scheme against the righteous. Their minds, imagination, and conversation are about the overthrow of the Lord's ways. In contrast to this, the righteous sit with the Lord's Word, with the prophets and apostles. Their minds, imagination, and conversation are filled with the Lord's wisdom. "Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors." God's Word is our friend, and our joyful meditation on the Word brings a wisdom that leads to life. O Lord, open my eyes, that I may see your wonderous ways. Amen.

### **TUESDAY: 1 Peter 5:6-11 "He Cares for You"**

This world is tough. This life is full of trouble and cares. Jesus warned us, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33). What, then, do we do with all these "cares"? Peter has a very specific, but also precariously difficult instruction: "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." Like the disciples who cast their garments over the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem, we cast our cares on God. This happens in our prayers, which often sound like this: O Lord, You have forbidden worry, but You have given me so much to worry about, so You are going to have to take care of all of this. Help me, deliver me, comfort me, and give me wisdom to bless You in the midst of all this trouble. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY: Micah 7:18-20 “A God Like You”**

Micah ends with wonder, not fear. “Who is a God like you?” he asks. Not because God keeps a careful record of every failure, but because God pardons sin and delights to show mercy. That is the heart of God revealed to us again and again: anger does not get the last word; mercy does. Sin is not only noticed; it is forgiven. Guilt is not only named; it is lifted. God does not leave our iniquities clinging to us forever, but treads them underfoot and hurls them into the depths of the sea. What God has promised, God will do. The same steadfast love pledged to Abraham and Jacob is the mercy shown to us in our Lord Jesus Christ. We are not held by the worst we have done. We are held by our God who forgives, restores, and delights in mercy. Gracious Lord, cast our sins away and teach us to trust Your steadfast love. Amen.

**THURSDAY: Luke 15:11-32 “Brought to the Feast”**

We know the story well—a father finds his son while he is still a long way off. He welcomes him home and feasts with him. The other son, presumably much closer to home, is also a long way off. The father goes out and finds him, too. He is not content to leave anyone lost to darkness. So it is with our Father. God gives the Son over to the darkness to find us and bring us back home. God sets a Table and rejoices with us in feasting. Heavenly Father, daily gladden our hearts with the good news of salvation through Your seeking-and-finding Son, Jesus. Amen.

**FRIDAY: Acts 9:1-18 “The God Who Interrupts”**

God interrupts Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul is breathing threats and violence, certain that he is serving God by harming the followers of Jesus. The Christians in Damascus know his reputation, and Ananias has every reason to be afraid when the Lord sends him to Saul. Yet God is already at work in ways Ananias cannot see. The risen Christ meets Saul with mercy, not destruction. Ananias comes near, calls him “Brother Saul,” lays hands on him, and becomes part of God’s healing work. This is good news for us. God is not finished with people when they are lost, afraid, angry, or wrong. God can interrupt a harmful path, open blinded eyes, restore community, and make enemies into siblings in Christ. O Lord, interrupt us with Your mercy, open our eyes to Your grace, and make us instruments of Your healing. Amen.

**SATURDAY: Psalm 25 “To You, O Lord, I Lift Up My Soul”**

David lifts up his soul to the Lord: a soul marked by the sins of youth, many transgressions, and great guilt. Yet David does not turn inward for comfort or try to make himself worthy before God. By the work of the Spirit, David is drawn to trust the God of his salvation, the One who pardons guilt, forgives sin, teaches the humble, and leads sinners in the way. This is the Spirit’s gracious work in us as well. The Holy Spirit calls us through the Word, brings us honestly before God, and gives us faith to trust the mercy promised in Jesus Christ. So we enter God’s presence confessing our sins and asking for mercy, and in response we hear the Gospel: “I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love. Amen.

