

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026



Fight the good fight of the faith.

Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Matthew 22:37). The temptation to disregard that commandment is strong in seasons of persecution, but perhaps even stronger and more deceptive in seasons of peace.

When we're comfortable and everything seems good, our instinct is to love the gifts more than the Giver. God gets pushed further and further down the priority list. In this way so many former Christians have lost God entirely.

When God gives us circumstances where we must clearly choose either our most precious possessions or him, his goal is to draw us closer to our only Savior.

Hymn #817

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee,
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich boun - ty gave my bod - y,
3 Lord, let at last thine an - gels come, to A-br'ham's



ne'er from me de - part, with ten - der mer - cy cheer me.
soul, and all I have in this poor life of la - bor.
bos - om bear me home that I may die un - fear - ing;



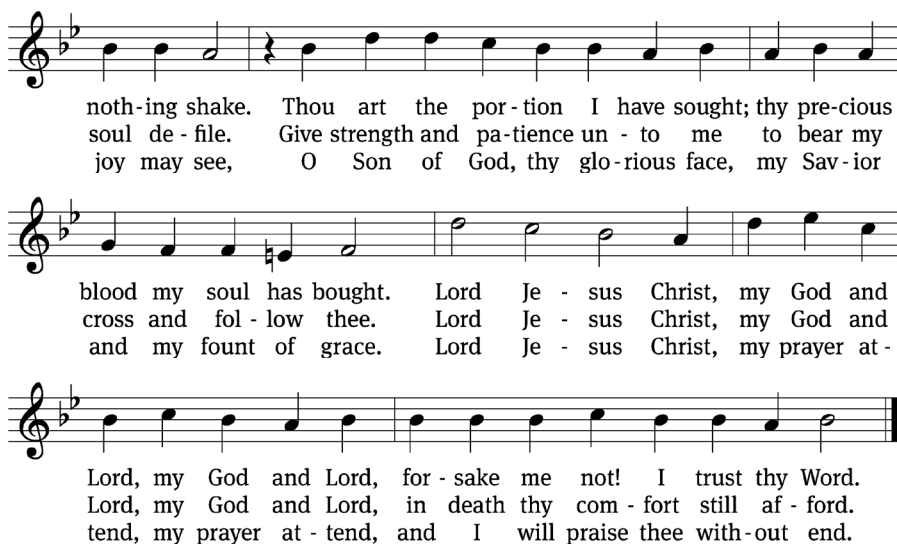
Earth has no plea - sure I would share; yea, heav'n it -
Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place may glo - ri -
and in its nar - row cham - ber keep my bod - y



self were void and bare if thou, Lord, wert not near me.
fy thy lav - ish grace and help and serve my neigh - bor.
safe in peace - ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor - row break, my trust in thee can
Let no false doc - trine me be - guile; let Sa - tan not my
And then from death a - wak - en me that these mine eyes with



noth-ing shake. Thou art the por-tion I have sought; thy pre-cious
 soul de-file. Give strength and pa-tience un-to me to bear my
 joy may see, O Son of God, thy glo-rious face, my Sav-ior
 blood my soul has bought. Lord Je-sus Christ, my God and
 cross and fol-low thee. Lord Je-sus Christ, my God and
 and my fount of grace. Lord Je-sus Christ, my prayer at-
 Lord, my God and Lord, for-sake me not! I trust thy Word.
 Lord, my God and Lord, in death thy com-fort still af-ford.
 tend, my prayer at-tend, and I will praise thee with-out end.

Text: Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tablatur, Strassburg, 1577

In the name of the Father and ✠ of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession & Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
 and will forgive us our sins
 and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
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The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Exodus 32:15-29

Just weeks after receiving the commandments at Mt. Sinai, the Israelites danced around the golden calf. In contrast to Aaron who had bowed to pressure and made the idol, the Levites restored order by executing a heart-wrenching command.

¹⁵Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."

¹⁸Moses replied:

"It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear."

¹⁹When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

²¹He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

²²"Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' ²⁴So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

²⁵Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

²⁶So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

²⁷Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'" ²⁸The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. ²⁹Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27C

The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Even if family fails and forsakes us, the LORD will hear and deliver us.

The congregation sings the refrain and the “Glory be...”

Refrain



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.

Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.

Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior.

Refrain

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.

I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.

Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

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Tune: David Haas

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:11-16

Paul calls on Timothy to flee from false teaching and the love of money and to pursue the imperishable gift of salvation and the enduring work of God's kingdom.

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34

The congregation repeats the refrain after the minister before and after the verse.

Refrain



Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 10:34-42

When Jesus sends his twelve apostles on their first mission trip, he prepares them for the divisions they will encounter on account of faith and unbelief.

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

⁴⁰“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. ⁴²And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #702

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my
2 "I am the light, I light the way, a god - ly
3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your
4 Then let us fol - low Christ our Lord and take the



way a - bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake,
life dis - play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day,
soul's sal - va - tion, your heart from ev - 'ry guile to free,
cross ap - point - ed and, firm - ly cling - ing to his Word,



o - bey my call and guid - ing. O bear the cross, what -
I keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
from sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
in suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide, take my ex - am - ple for your guide.
well I show how you must so - journ here be - low.
of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat-tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677, abr.; (St. 3): Geistliche Lieder und Lobgesänge, 1695
Tune: Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555–1613, adapt.

Sermon

1 Timothy 6:11-16

God calls us to a good fight

After the sermon, please stand for the creed on the following page.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at subsplash.com/u/-MV95PX/give.



Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.

Offering Prayer

Lord Jesus, use the offerings we bring you to support the work of your kingdom around the world. More than that, use our giving as a reminder to ourselves and as a testimony to others that we serve no god but you, and that our security, well-being, and life are found in you alone.

Amen.

Hymn #876

Fight the Good Fight



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your
 3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; his bound-less
 4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang-es



strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
 eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -
 mer - cy will pro - vide. Lean, and the trust - ing
 not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
 soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
 you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.
 Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, New York, 1821

Please stand

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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Hymn #870

O Church, Arise



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

Text and tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963
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Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Alex Rathje
Dave MacDonald

Ushers

Rob Neeley & Jon Krueger
Mike Saur & Josh Clark

Acolyte

Tishann Charles
Cora Lacey

Church Cleaning

still needed

After-worship Snacks

The Seifert's
still needed

Livestream

Lacey
Saur

Offering Caretakers

Beverly Henley & Barbara Byrd
Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes

Mowing

Brian Lacey & Kyle Rathje
Curt Roby & Morris Hayes

Service Folders

Kathryn Haddon
Kristine Gill

Assisted-living Leader

Ken Dunaway
Livestreamed

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



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God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.

- 1 Peter 1:3

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