



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



**Time after Pentecost
June 21, 2026**

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

* *The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

*We Pray Now to the Holy Spirit
Gaelic Air*

Dietrich Buxtehude
Keith Chapman

WELCOME

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider **filling out a Connection Card online** (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*

GREETING

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.

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

SONG OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A silence is kept before the prayer.

God of truth uncovered,
you trace the sparrow's flight,
and plumb the secret places of the heart:
bring our fear and conflict
into the light of your presence;
help us to lose our hollow life
and find our way to you;
through Jesus Christ, the master and the slave.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM FOR CALEB MATTHEW BURNSIDE

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Caleb Matthew for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Caleb baptized into Christ?

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

Caleb, as you come to receive this gift—and parents, sponsors, as you accompany them—you are entering into the covenant life of baptism:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in him hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that he may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Caleb, will you continue in this covenant God is making with you in baptism?

We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Parents: do you promise to help Caleb continue to grow in the Christian faith and life?

We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Caleb in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Caleb and pray for him in his new life in Christ? Will you grow with him, learn with him, serve with him, and together give praise to God?

We will.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.

Caleb Matthew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Caleb with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Caleb, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

HOLY BAPTISM FOR MATTHEW DESMOND HARRIS

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Matthew Desmond for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Matthew baptized into Christ?

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

Matthew, as you come to receive this gift—and parents, sponsors, as you accompany them—you are entering into the covenant life of baptism:

to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in him hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture him in faith and prayer,

so that he may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made,

and work for justice and peace.

Matthew, will you continue in this covenant God is making with you in baptism?
We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Parents: do you promise to help Matthew continue to grow in the Christian faith and life?
We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Matthew in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Matthew and pray for him in his new life in Christ? Will you grow with him, learn with him, serve with him, and together give praise to God?

We will.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.

Matthew Desmond, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Matthew with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Matthew, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #806

O God, My Faithful God

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake.

Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. We pray for the lands, people, and churches of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Zambia. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. We remember those who died for their faith, including John the Baptist and the Emmanuel Nine; we praise you also for those who have taught and led us for generations, including Macrina, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, Onesimus Nesib, Philip Melancthon, and Cyril. May we follow their example of faith and service.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the offerings of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Food Bank of Northwest Indiana** foodbanknwi.org and **Project Neighbors** projectneighbors.org or facebook.com/ProjectNeighbors.*



If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.

OFFERTORY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Robert Hobby

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

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.**

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

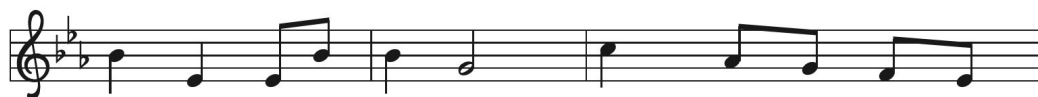
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #798 *Will You Come and Follow Me*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

ELW #769 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

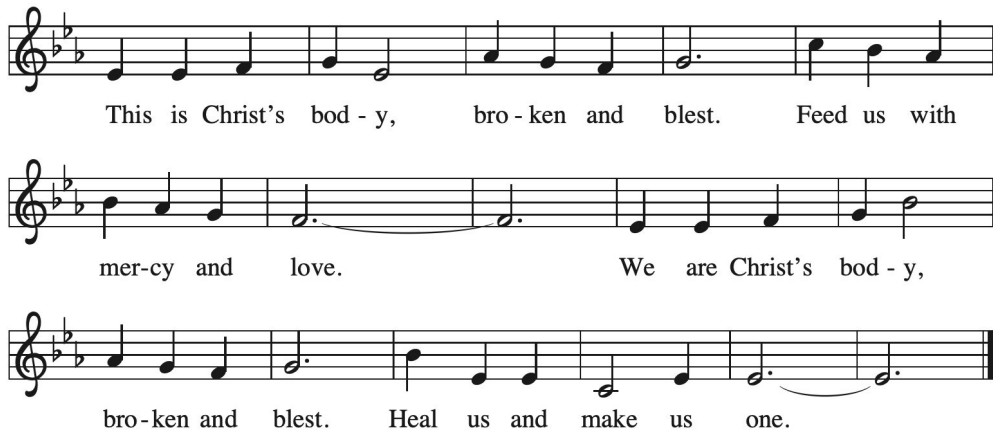
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

ACS #967 *This is Christ's Body*



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with mer - cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one." The first staff covers the first line, the second staff covers the second line, and the third staff covers the third line. The music ends with a double bar line.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

God, who creates, redeems and sustains,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #810

O Jesus, I Have Promised



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

André Campra

<u>Worship Leaders</u>	<u>9:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Sam Venstrom
Lector	Dave Nelson
Prayer Assistant	Lanie Steinwart
Communion Assistants	Kathy Sutherland Grace Basich Phil Hahn
Ushers	Scott Steinwart
Sound/Light	
Video/Livestream	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even
Guest Organist	Ruth Ausema
Communion Baker	Candace Jacques

Ruth Ausema has been a church organist and recitalist at different periods of her life beginning in high school. She currently enjoys being an elementary music teacher at Heavilin in the Valparaiso Community School District. Ruth and her husband, Dave, have 3 adult children and one adorable grandson.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Malawi, Zambia.**

We are thankful for:

- the biodiversity and natural wonders in these lands
- church leaders who have spoken out and countered sexual violence and human rights abuses
- those who are dealing with challenges of migrations within, and to, these countries
- stable governance and economies, and rising living standards for many people in recent years.

We pray for:

- greater food security for those most vulnerable, especially in times of climate change
- an end to political and economic corruption
- rising standards of living, particularly for those most poor
- an end to exploitation of resources and of the people, especially those who are young and/or female.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of June 21, 2026

June 21 ~ Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.

June 24 ~ John the Baptist

John said, “[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.” And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus’, just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

June 25 ~ Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as “the teacher of Germany.”

June 25 ~ Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

June 27 ~ Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444

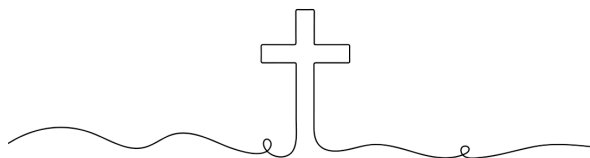
Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril’s interpretation, that Christ’s person included both divine and human natures, was correct.

Between Hiding and Exposing

The desire to make known that which is currently hidden can evoke various responses. When abusive power and fear suppress opposition, or when liberating truth is just under the surface, the desire for uncovering and justice is likely strong. However, when harm or injustice is not an obvious outcome and that which is hidden is perceived to benefit stability or peace, there may be resistance to making the hidden known.

Through a variety of images, the speech in Matthew's gospel calls for the unknown to be revealed and intentions made plain. Our liturgical practice of corporate confession provides an opportunity to acknowledge our relationship with what stays hidden and what we wish to reveal in our own lives. The confession may be discomfoting, but it reminds us of an important dynamic in the life of faith: Just as Jesus tells his disciples not to fear and reassures them of their value, the words of forgiveness in the liturgy orient us toward a God who restores relationships and calls us beloved.

If only the liturgical practice of confession and forgiveness would once and for all set us on the right path and give us permanent assurance! But that would also free us from curiosity about what taking up the cross means in our lives. Once the cross is exposed, we must face our response to it, and it challenges our allegiances and prods at our vulnerabilities. However, Jesus is clear that the cross also uncovers a path to life. Instead of this path being a lonely, exposing journey, Jesus knows it well and joins us on the way.



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