



MAY 17, 2026 | 9:00 AM | SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack
Liturgist: Frank Van Alstine
Organist: Darlene Johnson
Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger
Faith Formation Director: Kari Weiland

On most Sundays, children will begin in worship and be dismissed to their Sunday School classes after the "Time for All Ages."

For those children staying in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on "behaving." It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the *Time for All Ages* and to participate in other ways during the service.

POINTS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

John O'Donohue, 20th century

"The hunger to belong is not merely a desire to be attached to something. It is rather sensing that great transformation and discovery become possible when belonging is sheltered and true."

*** Invites those comfortably able to do so to stand.**

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS"** to **73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

* GREETING

Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation. May the grace of God, through Christ our salvation, be with you all.

And also with you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We shout for joy
to God who rides upon the clouds!

**We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God,
before whom the earth quakes,
and whose abundant blessings provide for all in need!**

God is Sovereign over the earth,
Defender of the defenseless, and Parent to orphans;

**God creates families for those who are alone.
God leads captives to freedom
and breaks the yoke of oppression.**

God goes forth before the people,
marching through the wilderness of their lives,
bringing forth restoration and justice.

**Sing praise to God,
Rider of the ancient skies,
who dwells in holiness.**

Proclaim the power of God!

**O God, how awesome you are in your sanctuary!
You give power and strength to your people.**

* CELEBRATION HYMN

"God is Here!"

#280

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

LESSON FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

THE GOOD NEWS

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

This is the good news. In this truth we find eternal life.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS FOR THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Zoey as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM *Zoey Jane Busterud*

* PRESENTATION HYMN ***“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”*** #75

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES, CANDLE & SHELL

BENEDICTION

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

MISSION FOCUS Strengthen the Church

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

“Come Sing a Song of Harvest” vs. 3 & 4 #719

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**May these gifts, O God,
become action and intention,
fulfilling Christ's commandment to love. Amen.**

* SENDING HYMN

“I Come with Joy” vss. 1, 4, 5

#420

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Beloved of God, it is now time to go back into the world from which we have come

and let love be true and freely given.

And may you be encouraged and blessed by the Advocate whose love warms and surrounds you like the sun, believing that God is with us always, as close as our beating hearts.

Amen.

And may God’s grace and peace go out into the world through you.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

RESPONSE

“May the God of Hope Go with Us”

See Next Pg.

POSTLUDE

TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Jesus’ prayer for us “all to be one” is a prayer for unity and purpose, not for sameness. God gives us diversity of colors and species in nature so that our ecosystem can thrive. Plants, animals, insects, fish and even mold and bacteria exist in a complex dance of function and form.

The same with church. Take our summer lunch program: we need people to take inventory, order food and supplies, cook the food, take it to the Methodist church and then serve it and clean up. In church we need readers, musicians, singers and choir directors, sound technicians and someone to connect us to the radio and livestream.

We have a wealth of talent in the congregation, including our children. This summer, we invite children to share their talents with us in worship. Our children can be ushers, greeters, bake the bread for Communion, share a dance routine with us to some Christian music, play an instrument or sing for a prelude, silent prayer or during the offertory. Let us involve our children in worship to enhance our worship together. The different gifts and talents are signs of God’s abundant blessings, coming together for worship is the unity for which Jesus prays.

Sunday Service Sponsorships

Radio Ministry is sponsored in memory of parents, Gerald & Harriet Henrich, from Holly Henrich.

Altar Flowers are in memory of Mike Kunkel, from the Kunkel Family.

Livestream is sponsored in honor of our granddaughter, Lilly Sue Kunkel’s scholastic abilities and her excelling in high school track.

Coffee Fellowship is hosted by Cheryl and Laurie.

May the God of Hope Go with Us

Dios de la esperanza



¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz!
May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,



Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad.
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.



Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz,
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,



luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.
bring - ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.



O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos
Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our



de tu a - mor. Lu - che - mos por la paz,
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,



fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

Words: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921-1988, alt.

Music: Argentine folk melody

Public Domain Refrain



Save the Dates for Church and Community Events this Summer:

- June 8: Summer Lunch Program Begins
- June 13: Fill the Gazebo
- June 14: Shared Church Service at Hillview Wedding Barn
- June 20: Haven's Annual Benefit
- July 19: Annual Church Picnic at Kitchenette Park
- July 26: Stillwater Concert at Saint Stephens
- August 5-9: Lincoln County Fair

*See monthly Interpreter for more details on upcoming events.

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