



International Day of the Christian Martyr

MISSION SERVICE JUNE 28, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION *During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship, read the introduction, look up the Scripture readings and pray: Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of Your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship You with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

CHILDREN *of all ages are welcome! The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.*

LISTENING DEVICES *for the hearing impaired are available at the sound board (in the back of the sanctuary).*

COMMEMORATION *Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons (c.140–c.202) believed that the way to remain steadfast to the truth was to hold fast to the faith handed down from the Apostles. He believed that only Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were trustworthy Gospels. Irenaeus was an opponent of gnosticism and its emphasis on dualism. As a result of his battles with the gnostics, he was one of the first to speak of the church as "catholic." By this he meant that local congregations did not exist by themselves but were linked to one another in the whole church. He also maintained that this church was not contained within any national boundaries. He argued that the church's message was for all people, in contrast to the gnostics and their emphasis on "secret knowledge." This is what we mean when we profess the church is **catholic** and **apostolic**, the faith that has been passed down through the generations.*

INTRODUCTION *Without God's loving presence, we are like a parched and waterless land. Christ becomes our life-giving spring, through the waters of baptism, quenching our thirst, pouring God's love into our hearts, and setting us free from the power of sin and death. In today's Gospel, Jesus promises that those who give a cup of cold water to God's little ones serve Christ Himself and will be rewarded. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to bear witness to Christ and whether we are welcomed or persecuted, God is with us and will reward our faithfulness.*

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright" (SBH # 452 - favorite)

EVAN. C. M.

WILLIAM HENRY HAVERGAL, 1793-1870

Slowly

1. Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, With rev - erence and with fear;
 Though dust and ash - es in thy sight, We may, we must draw near. A - men.

2 We perish if we cease from prayer,
 O grant us power to pray;
 And when to meet thee we prepare,
 Lord, meet us by the way.

3 God of all grace, we come to thee
 With broken, contrite hearts;
 Give what thine eye delights to see,
 Truth in the inward parts.

4 Give deep humility; the sense
 Of godly sorrow give;
 A strong desire, with confidence,
 To hear thy voice and live;

5 Faith in the only sacrifice
 That can for sin atone;
 To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes,
 On Christ, on Christ alone;

6 Patience to watch and wait and weep.
 Though mercy long delay;
 Courage our fainting souls to keep,
 And trust thee though thou slay.

7 Give these, and then thy will be done;
 Thus strengthened with all might,
 We, through thy Spirit and thy Son,
 Shall pray, and pray aright. Amen.

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

INVOCATION (= *All may make the sign of the cross.*)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the Source of life, the Word of salvation, the Spirit of mercy. **C: AMEN.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Please kneel.*)

P: Let us confess our sins to God, Who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: God of compassion, **C: We confess that we have neglected Your commandments and have sinned against You in our thoughts, in our words and in our deeds. Forgive our sins, Merciful God, those known and unknown, things done and left undone. Make our hearts burn with love for You and those in need, so that our lives may witness to Your never-failing love. AMEN.**

P: Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into His death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **C: AMEN.**

GREETING (*Please rise.*)

P: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life be with you all.

C: And also with you.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Let all the peoples praise him.” (Romans 15:6,11)

PRAISE SONG *“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”*

(Maj # 204 - J.H. Fillmore)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. The first system is marked "Unison" and begins with the lyrics "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for-ev-er, I will sing, I will". The second system continues with "sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for-ev-er, I will sing of the". The third system is marked "Fine" and contains the lyrics "mer-cies of the Lord. With my mouth will I make known". The fourth system continues with "Thy faith-ful-ness, Thy faith-ful-ness; With my mouth will I make". The fifth system is marked "D.C. al Fine" and concludes with "known Thy faith-ful-ness to all gen-er-a-tions."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
 L: Let us pray together: **C: O God, You have prepared
 for those who love You joys beyond understanding.
 Pour into our hearts such love for You that, loving You
 above all things, we may obtain Your promises, which
 exceed all that we can desire; through Your Son, Jesus
 Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 89:1-18

(congregation reads indented)

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever;

**with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known
through all generations.**

I will declare that Your love stands firm forever,

that You established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.

You said, "I have made a covenant with My chosen one,

I have sworn to David My servant,

'I will establish your line forever

and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

The heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD,

Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?

Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?

In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;

He is more awesome than all who surround Him.

O LORD God Almighty, who is like You?

You are mighty, O LORD,

and Your faithfulness surrounds You.

You rule over the surging sea;

when its waves mount up, You still them.

You crushed Rahab like one of the slain;

with Your strong arm You scattered Your enemies.

The heavens are Yours, and Yours also the earth;

You founded the world and all that is in it.

You created the north and the south;

Tabor and Hermon sing for joy at Your name.

Your arm is endued with power;

Your hand is strong, Your right hand exalted.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;

love and faithfulness go before You.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You,

who walk in the light of Your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in Your name all day long;

they exult in Your righteousness.

For You are their glory and strength,

and by Your favor You exalt our horn.

Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD,

our king to the Holy One of Israel.

PRAISE SONG (*Please sit.*) “I Will Serve Thee”
 (Maj # 595 - favorite - William & Gloria Gaither)

I will serve Thee be-cause I love Thee, You have giv - en
 life to me; I was noth - ing be - fore You found me,
 You have giv - en life to me. Heart - aches, bro - ken
 piec - es, Ru - ined lives are why You died on Cal - vary; Your touch
 was what I longed for, You have giv - en life to me.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

FIRST LESSONJeremiah 28:1-17.....p. 1220

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSONRomans 6:12 – 7:6.....p. 1754

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

COLLECT FOR CHILDREN *(When children are present.)*

P: We will dismiss for Children's Church after the Gospel reading.

Let us pray the Collect for Children together: **C: Lord, we lift up to you the children of our church, asking for Your protection, guidance, and blessings over their lives.**

May they grow in faith, wisdom, and love, finding their identity in You and walking in the purpose You have for them. Surround them with Your grace, strengthen their families, and raise them to be lights in this world for Your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" verse 1 (ELW # 719)



1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
4 The cup of wa-ter giv'n for you still holds the
cries of race and clan, a-bove the noise of
fresh-ness of your grace; yet long these mul-ti-
self-ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
tudes to view the strong com-pas-sion in your face.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt. Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapters 10 and 11.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELMatthew 10:32 – 11:1.....p. 1512

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Young children may go to Children's Church.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *verse 4*

(Please be seated. See space for sermon notes in Announcements insert.)

SERMON “Set Free To Take Up Our Cross: Part II”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.
(Romans 15:13)*

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus” (ELW # 802 abridged)

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide;
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, Je - sus, here I share your woe;
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion Je - sus, here with you I die,
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

I shall fol - low where you guide.
we shall joy ce - les - tial know.
there to live with you on high.
life e - ter - nal grant to me.

SMALL CATECHISM READING

L: Let us confess our faith by reading a portion of Luther's Small Catechism, *Part III. The Lord's Prayer*:

L: What is The Second Petition?

C: "Thy kingdom come," (*Matthew 6:10*)

L: What does this mean?

C: Truly God's Kingdom comes by itself, without our prayer. But we pray in this request that it may come to us as well.

L: How does this happen?

C: It happens when the Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that we believe His holy Word by His grace and live godly lives here in this age and there in eternal life.

L: What is The Third Petition?

C: "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (*Mt. 6:10*)

L: What does this mean?

C: Truly, God's good and gracious will is accomplished without our prayer. But we pray in this request that it is accomplished among us as well.

L: How does this happen?

C: It happens when God destroys and interferes with every evil will and all evil advice, which will not allow God's Kingdom to come, such as the Devil's will, the world's will and will of our bodily desires. It also happens when God strengthens us by faith and by His Word and keeps us living by them faithfully until the end of our lives. This is His will, good and full of grace.

OFFERING *We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!*

(Please sit.)

MISSION MOMENT Day of the Christian Martyr

JOYFULLY PREPARED TO MEET CHRIST

Perpetua (died 203A.D.) was resolute in her walk with Christ. No level of pressure or persuasion could lessen her commitment to hold fast to Christ. Facing certain death in the arena, she refused to be frightened by her opponents, placing her faith in Christ alone for her salvation and viewing her execution as a joyous privilege. *(See the bulletin insert for more of her story.)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel as you are able.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

BLESSING

P: God gives rest to all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and forevermore.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"Amazing Grace" (Maj # 429 - favorite)

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

AMAZING GRACE

American Melody

Carrell and Clayton's *Virginia Harmony*

Harmonized by Edwin O. Excell

John Newton
John P. Rees, stanza 5

1 A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my hope se - cures;
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I have al - read - y come;
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

1 I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
 2 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 3 He will my shield and por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 4 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 5 We've no less days to sing God's praise, Than when we'd first be - gun.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS *Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments. Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place. You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Alyce Stein in honor of Rich and Patty's birthdays

BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

Holy Cross, to the Glory of God

JUNE 28, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Sally Stein | 11:00-Sharon Branigan
SOUND: 8:30-Josh Miller | 11:00-Ken Yoxheimer
LIVESTREAM: 8:30-Jonah Kincaid
SONG LEADER: Nancy Cook
LITURGIST: 8:30-Pat Gilbert | 11:00-Lyn Stryker
LECTOR: 8:30-Patty Stein | 11:00-Lyn Stryker
CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler
ALTAR GUILD: Alyce & Patty Stein
COUNTERS: Jan Stryker, Karen Brown
GRASS CUTTERS (6/22-27): Sam Glasmire, Rich Stein
HOSPITALITY: Holy Cross Social Ministry
SEXTON: **Volunteers needed**
PHONETREE: Stephen Zeiner
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski
PRAYER CARE: call Darlene Treisner (610) 442-8494

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church



a congregation of the
NORTH AMERICAN
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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Organist* † Karen Brown, *Secretary*
Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Bookkeeper* † Stephen Zeiner, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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