

WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

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Pastor Jeff Hackler

WE WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.

ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

9:00

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

GATHERING *"NOW THE FEAST"*

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

Refrain



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Refrain



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Refrain

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most Merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PASTORAL GREETING

P 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[Congregation is seated.]

The Word

1ST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

11 As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

⁹ **Lord, you are | good to all,
and your compassion is over | all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise | you, O Lord,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom
and speak | of your power,**

¹² that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-
| out all ages.**

You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

2ND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25a Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: SS5 "ALLELUIA! GIVE THE GLORY"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give the glory and the honor to the Lord! (2x)

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] 16 “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

25 At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: PASTOR JEFF

SONG OF THE DAY ELW 742 “WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

God our unity, your church flourishes in different languages, cultures, and movements. Grant us wisdom to discern when our yokes are too heavy, that we may live and serve in the freedom of your rest. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our life-giver, we grieve the pains placed upon our common home through war and neglect. What you have lovingly crafted, guide us to lovingly tend. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC ELW 686 *"WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN"*

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.
 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.

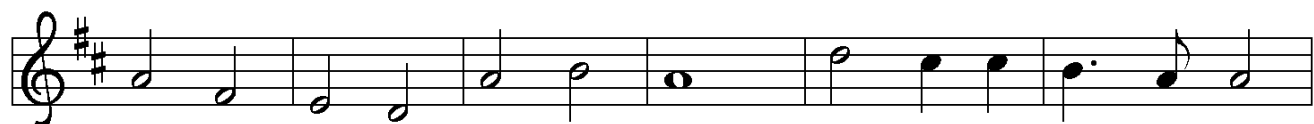
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,..
We praise your name and join their unending hymn...



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. "In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all."

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]

P on the night before he died...

Again, after supper ...

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast. **Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unit of the Holy Spirit,
All glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **Grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION SONG : *"COME UNTO JESUS"*

1. Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel
Here bring your wounded heart, broken and needy
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal

2. Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying
"My yoke is easy, My burden is light"

Refrain: Come unto Jesus, come unto Jesus
 Lay down your burdens, He is enough
 Come unto Jesus, rest in His love

3. Come, taste the Bread of Life broken for sinners
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters
Grace overflowing is yours evermore (refrain)

4. Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking
All that was gained count as nothing but loss
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross
Come unto Jesus, and take up your cross
Life everlasting He offers to us (refrain)

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.
Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
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.

The Sending

BENEDICTION:

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 888 *“O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES”*

DISMISSAL:

P Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

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1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun-tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit-ed plain:
 who more than self their coun-try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
 thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
 till all suc-cess be no - ble-ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.