

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2026

COME TO ME,
all who **labor**
and are **heavy** laden,
and I will **give you rest.**

Matthew 11:28, ESV



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INTRODUCTION

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.**

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 - row 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.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

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.**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's 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.

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.**

Please sit

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He 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.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14 (Read responsively)

⁸The 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.**

¹⁰All 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,**

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

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all
ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

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

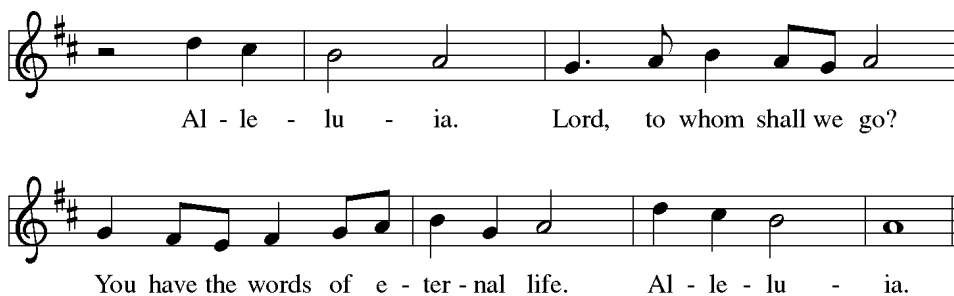
SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but 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. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand



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

The holy gospel according Matthew. **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.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the 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.”

²⁵At 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; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All 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 that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

HOMILY

Please stand

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i> |
|--|---|

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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. 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our home, you model freedom through the love shared across communities of trust and goodwill. As we remember those now gone to eternal rest, we thank you for the gifts of life together. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come Unto Me

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

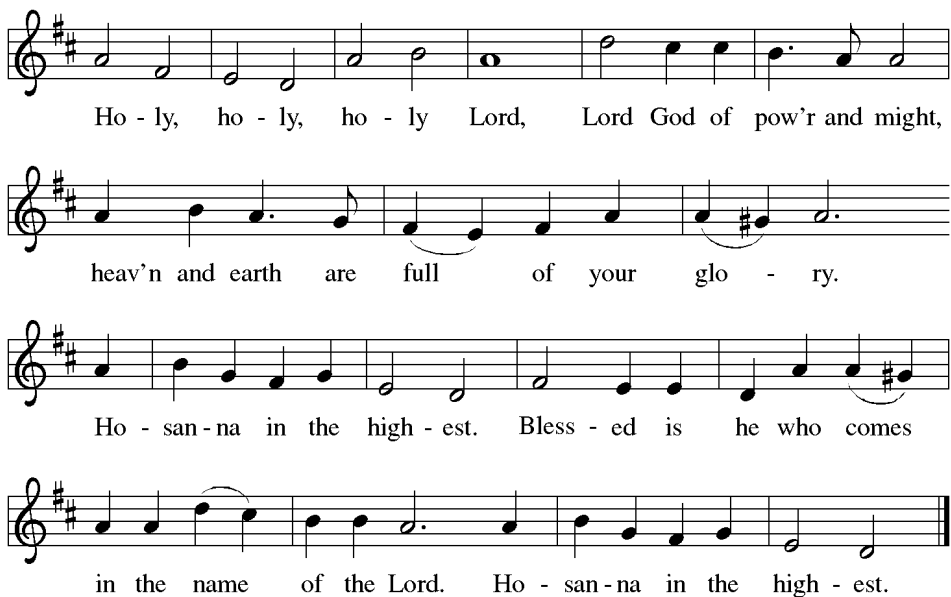
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please sit

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

FAMILY TIME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

Please stand

SENDING HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

Thanks be to God!

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"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

"Come To Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Help for Venezuelan Earthquake Victims

On Wednesday, June 24, **two powerful earthquakes (7.2 and 7.5 magnitudes) struck back-to-back in Venezuela**, leaving thousands injured, missing, or trapped beneath the rubble and more than 1,700 dead, with death tolls still climbing. This disaster comes amid a time of extreme political and financial crisis for the nation.

We're called to respond as the body of Christ to help our siblings in Venezuela recover from this disaster.

PRAY: Lift up those affected by the earthquakes—comfort and strength for those who've lost so much, and wisdom and endurance for first responders and relief workers.

GIVE: Urgent financial support is needed for basic needs. Donations go to Venezuela through the Lutheran World Federation, local congregations, and other aid agencies.

Mail a check to Florida-Bahamas Synod, 3838 W Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607, payable to "Florida-Bahamas Synod" with "Venezuela Earthquake Relief" in the memo line.

Monthly Operating Financial Summary

	Monthly: May 2026			YTD: January - May 2026		
	Total	Church	Little Lambs	Total	Church	Little Lambs
Budgeted Expenses	\$79,294	\$25,472	\$53,822	\$401,996	\$132,886	\$269,110
Actual Expenses	\$110,624	\$42,045	\$68,579	\$441,214	\$162,472	\$278,742
Budgeted Giving / Income	\$81,294	\$20,356	\$60,938	\$408,126	\$103,436	\$304,690
Actual Giving / Income	\$76,401	\$13,168	\$63,233	\$406,717	\$75,506	\$331,211
Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$34,223)	(\$28,877)	(\$5,346)	(\$34,497)	(\$86,966)	\$52,469
Annual Deficit will be funded from the			Balances as of May 31, 2026			
Good Shepherd Bank Reserves			Bank Reserves			\$248,288

The following items are excluded from the Summary above

- 1. Capital Expenditures of \$124,030 funded from our investment account**
(Air Conditioning, Painting, Landscaping, Little Lambs Playground & Shed)
- 2. Giving / Income of \$109,103 transferred in from our investment account**

Attendance Last Sunday: 37

Those Assisting in Today's Service

Pastor	Keith Walbolt
Deacon	Gini ZeRuth
Music Director	Rick Steuart
Lector	Marcia Swager
Communion Assistants	Sue Ondich
	John Ondich, IV
Ushers	John Ondich, IV
	Dave Mickley

Good Shepherd Council Members

Nancy Meyer	Diane Supplee
Kate Herrington	John Mennel
David Mickley	Erica Ottmann
Patti Nickol	Gus Dueben
Laura Blauvelt	Keith Walbolt

Dave Supplee, Church Treasurer

Opportunities for July 5, 2026 – July 12, 2026

Sunday, July 5, 2026

9:45am Worship Service
 Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, July 6, 2026

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

10:00am Staff Meeting
 Quilting – Quilting Room

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

9:05am Preschool Chapel

Thursday, July 9, 2026

8:30am Gardeners

Friday, July 10, 2026

10:00am Finance Meeting Library
6pm Orchid Society setup Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 11, 2026

8:00am Orchid Society Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 12, 2026

9:45am Worship Service
 Coffee & Fellowship