



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

10:30 Holy Communion

Today we begin a summer worship series on the book of Hebrews. This is an obscure book for many of us. Its approach to faith is very different from what we are used to. And yet, it holds a major place in the Bible. We open our minds to this old text, so that its eternal truths may speak to us anew.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
(For music see Hymn 519 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears to hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you.**

**Refrain God has spoken to the people hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

**2. They who have ears to hear the message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word. Refrain**

Text: Hasidic traditional; Williard F. Jabusch, b. 2930, English version. Text copyright 1966, 1982 Williard F. Jabusch admin. OCP Publications. Music: Hasidic tune.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all who are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Kyrie Eleison

"Kyrie Eleison" is Greek for "Lord have mercy."
(For music turn to Hymn 19 in the Songbook binder)

Refrain

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way.
Kyrie Eleison ev'ry day**

- 1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all.
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the
hungry and the poor.
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***
- 4. For your spirit to guide, that you center our lives
in the water and the Word
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood
let us pray to the Lord! Let us pray to the Lord! *Refrain***

Text and music: Larry Olson, copyright 1989, Dakota Road Music, CCLI #1765776

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God of all times and peoples, as you have spoken to our ancestors, so now speak to us. Purify us from all that stains us. Imprint your will upon us so that we may reflect your goodness. We ask this through the Perfect One, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Scripture Poetry Psalm 2 (Read responsively)

B: Why is this strife among nations?

Why this pointless scheming?

**C: Kings stand against God,
nobles plot together
against the Lord's anointed:**

B: "Let us break these fetters,
let us cast off these chains!"

**C: High above the earth
God laughs in mockery,**

B: speaking in anger
striking them with terror:

**C: "On Zion, my holy mountain,
I anoint my king."**

B: I will repeat the Lord's decree:

"You are my son,
today I give you birth.

**C: Ask and the nations are yours,
even the far-off lands.**

B: You will strike them with an iron rod,
shatter them like clay pots."

**C: Kings, come to your senses;
rulers, take heed.**

B: Serve the Lord with joy,
tremble in awe,
bow at God's feet,

**C: for if you provoke God's anger,
you will perish in a flash.**

**How much better
to find shelter in God!**

Scripture Reading Hebrews 1:1-2:4

D: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of

God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

E: For to which of the angels did God ever say,
'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you'?

Or again,
'I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son'?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
'Let all God's angels worship him.'

⁷Of the angels he says,
'He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.'

⁸But of the Son he says,
'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

¹⁰And,
'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹² like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.'

¹³But to which of the angels has he ever said,
'Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?

¹⁴Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

D: Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ²For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, ³how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who

heard him, ⁴while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Blessed Be the God of Israel
(For music see Hymn 250 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**

2. **With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**

3. **My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79. Text copyright 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Arr. copyright Oxford University Press

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

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

**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.**

**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.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

During the offertory you are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

† MEAL †

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Loving God:

**C: 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are lifted in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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 of Nazareth; 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 church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to this table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

838 Beautiful Savior (Red Hymnal)

552 Blessed Be the God of Israel (Red Hymnal)

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: 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.

C: Amen.

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn This Is My Father's World
(For music see Hymn 824 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in my thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.**

2. **This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.**

3. **This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring;
God reigns, let the earth be glad!**

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901. Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Four Senses of Scripture:

1. Literal – Critically examining the text, its history, and the culture which created it.
2. Allegorical – Symbolic interpretation of Old Testament texts to refer to Christ or to the church. St. Paul does this in Galatians 4:24 when he says of Abraham's two heirs that one represents the covenant of Judaism and the other represents Christianity. (This sense was rejected by most Protestant Reformers.)
3. Moral – How one should act. Jesus' parables are usually interpreted in this sense.
4. Anagogic – Seeking meanings (or hidden meanings) that point to the future. This is *not* using a book like Revelation to interpret current events. A good example is Jesus talking about the destruction of the temple and his resurrected body being a new temple.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Altar Care	Linda Flood
Communion Assistants	Greg Zuege
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	Father's Day

Worship assistants for next Sunday, June 28

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	

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